

KIM JONG UN

**LET US BUILD STRUCTURES
FOR THE PEOPLE IN
A LARGER NUMBER**

Foreign Languages Publishing House

DPR Korea

Juche 113 (2024)

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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Let Us Make Our Capital City Even More Splendid by Building 50 000 Flats

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All the builders and service personnel who have turned out in this worthy project for improving our capital city,

Today we have the honour to be creating another significant landmark in the history of Pyongyang's development.

The Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Second Plenary Meeting of the Party's Eighth Central Committee held earlier this year took the decision to construct 50 000 flats in our capital city during the five-year plan period by building 10 000 every year, while pushing ahead with housing development across the country.

The most worthwhile and glorious revolutionary undertaking of all the momentous and gigantic fighting tasks decided by the Party Congress is being fully launched today.

Building 50 000 modern flats in Pyongyang, the capital of our great country, is something our Party has long intended, prepared for and aspired to, in order to provide its

citizens with more cultured and stable living conditions.

The Party and the government, having made themselves aware of the number of families that were in need of new houses, conducted in-depth research to determine the measures for solving the problem. They regarded this project as their most important task.

Having willingly acknowledged that this colossal project would be an honourable revolutionary task that it must implement without fail, however challenging the conditions and environment, the Party Central Committee reaffirmed that its architectural development plan and construction policy would be based on the principle of applying the people-first principle more thoroughly.

It redefined the orientation and priority of the work, ensuring that a significant part of the state construction budget was allocated for building houses. Then, with the plans and preparations already made, it introduced the policy of building 50 000 flats at its Eighth Congress.

This large-scale house-building programme introduced by our Party and state is not designed for the pursuit of financial profit; it is an ennobling undertaking to turn the state's assets and the fruits of their creative labour into benefits for the working masses.

If, starting today, we build 50 000 flats by 2025 when we will mark the 80th founding anniversary of the Party—10 000 flats every year—we will have built almost 70 000 flats, including the more than 16 000 that are currently under construction. Thus we will have solved, once and for

all, the problem of housing for the citizens of the capital.

Carrying out such an audacious and expansive house-building programme in the capital is very important also in demonstrating the unquenchable fighting spirit of our state and people as they continue their bold advance in the face of manifold difficulties.

As you must all be aware, a great deal of thought went into deciding on this project.

To be honest, that a project on such a massive scale could be launched in today's circumstances, when the challenges and difficulties are harsher than ever before, is almost unimaginable.

The construction of 10 000 flats this year will be carried out in circumstances that are entirely different from when we started building Ryomyong Street five years ago; moreover, the amount of work we must complete in a limited time is many times greater than it was back then.

Yet our Party decided that the project must go ahead unconditionally, since it will have a direct impact on the life of the citizens of the capital, and since it is an important political undertaking in the first year of implementing the decisions of the Party Congress.

We have the proud dignity and courage that we are undertaking such a gigantic and magnificent project in the most trying times; we also have the self-confidence, experience and assets for completing it without fail.

By completing the iconic multi-storey, high-rise apartment buildings in the Songsin and Songhwa area, as

depicted in the artist's impression, by the end of this year, we will, once again, display to the full the power of our state and the creative strength of our people.

In the course of this, a further major advance will be achieved by our Juche-oriented architecture, and greater momentum will be gained in ensuring that construction serves the aim of creating a new life of our own style by our own efforts and with our own hands.

We will introduce the latest architectural techniques and construction methods, such as green architecture and dry-building, in an aggressive and innovative manner. We will also further expand and strengthen the foundations of the industrial bases producing building equipment and materials, and will work to make our construction units and builders stronger and more highly-skilled.

This grand construction project will be of monumental significance in the history of the capital's development.

The project of building 50 000 flats, which we are launching today, is a historic undertaking for creating modern, large-scale residential streets and expanding the urban areas of Pyongyang, the capital city, to the east, west and north.

Building 10 000 flats and distinctive public buildings every year in the Songsin, Songhwa, Sopho, Kumchon and September 9 Street areas will transform our national capital in a more magnificent fashion, and make these streets monuments to the most arduous yet glorious third decade of the 21st century.

The citizens and their offspring who will live in the new streets we are building will, for many generations to come, remember as heroes the builders of our era who overcame such terrible trials to build these huge, world-class architectural groups.

The large-scale construction project we are launching today is a truly great undertaking for writing a glorious chapter in our history.

Comrades,

Construction combines the intelligence of an era with the strength of the nation concerned, and represents a major stride towards a civilized lifestyle and development.

Today, as we advance to achieve development and prosperity, upholding the principle of our-state-first, this project will constitute a major area of thrust, symbolic of the era in which a fresh upsurge and transformation are being recorded in socialist construction.

Through this project we will make a further improvement to the appearance of our capital city and usher in an era of a fresh dynamic advance, in the course of which socialist construction will be confidently developed, step by step.

In the planning of this massive project, the Party Central Committee paid primary attention to forming the major forces that would play the main, most powerful role.

First and foremost, in the decision-making process, it put its trust in our revolutionary armed forces, which are boundlessly faithful to the Party and the people.

The People's Army, while performing its mission and responsibility of staunchly defending the country and people, has always played a major role in making life better for the people.

It has performed heroic feats in numerous grand construction projects and in the rehabilitation of areas ravaged by natural disasters. Only when it undertakes major projects can victory be guaranteed in our overall construction work.

No one knows our People's Army as well as I do.

I am convinced that the officers and men of the People's Army will, by giving full play to their militant traits in the creative struggle for carrying out the construction work, prove themselves fully worthy of the expectations of the Party and the people.

This grand construction project also involves several major civilian construction units. These include the Capital City Construction Commission, High-Speed Youth Shock Brigade, Revolutionary Site Construction Bureau and External Construction Bureau. They have all performed outstanding exploits in other major construction projects, including that of Ryomyong Street.

Success or failure in this grand construction project is dependent on the leading officials, service personnel and civilian builders who are directly responsible for it.

The policy on construction of our Party and state, and the guidance they give to it, are ultimately translated into reality by the leading officials with their creative

enthusiasm and endeavours, and by our builders, in whose ardent patriotic spirit and skill our Party believes, above all else.

The task facing the design sector is paramount.

Construction is a highly creative undertaking, and buildings are becoming aesthetically appealing, artistic, multi-functional and intelligent. This adds to the importance of the design.

What our Party asks of the design sector is that every single dot and line placed on a blueprint should reflect the ideology, essence and vibrant spirit of our times and embody the noble ideals and standards of a civilization that can proudly take the global lead.

Based on the street formation and design plans that have already been decided and issued, the designers should ensure that all the designs for the buildings are perfected so that they fully embody the Party's concept of architectural aesthetics, and should submit them to the construction sector as soon as possible.

All the construction units responsible for building operations should start work immediately and execute their daily, weekly and monthly plans without fail, in accordance with the schedule of completing the buildings' frameworks within the first half of this year.

Every construction detachment and unit should focus its main energies on improving the quality of construction, and consistently hold fast to the principle of ensuring quality throughout the construction process.

If every official and builder maintains at all times the stance and attitude that their loyalty, patriotism and conscience will be proved by the Party, the state, the people, posterity and history, all the structures will become outstanding creations of our times both in name and in reality.

The construction supervision sector should, by enhancing its role, ensure that the construction policy of the Party and state is executed, the people's demands and interests are met in full, and the safety of what they build is guaranteed.

The materials and equipment needed for the construction of 10 000 flats must be supplied on a priority and timely basis.

The factories and enterprises that have been assigned to the production of cement, steel and various other building materials and equipment should fulfil their production quotas properly and on time by giving full play to the revolutionary enthusiasm and creativity of the working class. By doing so, they can ensure the success of the housing construction in the capital.

The railway and other transport sectors should launch a vigorous campaign for stepping up transport to ensure the prompt delivery of the materials needed at the construction sites in the capital and at the bases where the steel and other building materials are being produced.

We should give precedence to political work and the ideological offensive in all our undertakings. Doing so will

encourage the soldiers of the People's Army and the other builders to give full play to their loyalty, patriotism and creative wisdom. It will also ensure that all the construction sites are seething with high spirits, from a project's beginning to its end.

Ultimately, it will ensure that we not only enlist the masses in the worthwhile construction struggle, but also turn the capital city's massive construction sites into fierce revolutionary battlefields and excellent schools where a new spirit of the times is generated and courageous activists and stalwart socialist working people are trained.

Taking good care of the health and living conditions of the soldiers and other builders engaged in the construction should also be treated as a matter of utmost importance.

In keeping with the requirements of the national emergency epidemic prevention system, throughout the construction sites epidemic prevention stations and facilities should be built and a climate of observing the epidemic prevention regulations voluntarily and thoroughly should be established. Preventing accidents and disasters and ensuring that the builders engage in their work without inconvenience should be the focus of our utmost concern.

Supply services for the soldiers and other builders should not be left solely to the units concerned. Rather, the state supply system should be scrupulously observed to ensure that each builder is given his exact entitlement.

Comrades,

Today we are breaking the ground for this project, and

in several months' time a brand-new street for the people, a splendid architectural group we can all be proud of, will be built here.

Nothing is more worthwhile, honourable, or happier, for us than to dedicate our sweat and passion, without hesitation, to building an ideal street that will be a warm cradle for our people, who are the best and greatest in the world.

For the future of our more beautiful and magnificent capital,

For our parents, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters who will create and enjoy here a new, more cultured life to their heart's content, and

For the brilliant implementation of the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress,

Let us all fight with vigour!

Let Us Launch a New Revolution in Construction to Lead the Way in the Development of Our Own Style of Socialist Civilization

Letter to Those Attending the Second Grand Short
Course of Officials in the Construction Sector
February 8, Juche 111 (2022)

At a time when, in this significant year, every sector of socialist construction is seething with revolutionary enthusiasm for writing another glorious page in the history of the country by carrying out the decisions of the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Second Grand Short Course of Officials in the Construction Sector has convened.

Currently, in line with the Party's far-reaching plan, we are ushering in a new era of grand construction aimed at once again transforming the whole country beyond recognition. Officials in the construction sector are active on a major front of creation and transformation, and on this occasion they have gathered to review and analyze the successes achieved, the experiences gained, the mistakes made and the lessons learned in the construction sector in recent years and to rearm themselves with our Party's idea on architecture and its policy on construction. This is

quite opportune and meaningful.

I warmly congratulate the officials in the construction sector who are participating in this short course. They have a soaring will to demonstrate the level of development and dignity of our Juche-oriented architecture, which has reached a higher stage in the struggle for opening up an era of a fresh upsurge, an era of comprehensive development, in socialist construction.

I also extend warm and militant greetings to all the other builders and soldiers who are creating legends of construction in the era of the Workers' Party by giving full play to the strength and mettle of our state at the grand construction sites where a civilized and prosperous powerful country is being built, true to the call of the Party.

At the current stage of the struggle for achieving a fresh victory in socialist construction, when we must show the greatest determination in the worst-ever conditions, the position and role of the construction sector are vital. When this sector is advancing dynamically in the vanguard, developing our contemporary civilization ahead of all other sectors, the revolutionary mettle of the people and their zeal for struggle can be steadily heightened, our style of socialism can make vigorous progress, and the dawn of a great, powerful country will come earlier.

This is why our Party attaches such great importance to this short course and hopes that it will constitute a turning point in developing and achieving a fresh leap forward in Juche-oriented architecture.

The previous Grand Short Course of Officials in the Construction Sector, which was a first in our country's history of construction, established an important milestone in ushering in a golden age of construction by fully applying our Party's people-first ideal of architecture.

The short course brought about innovative changes in the way officials in the construction sector think and act, and as a result our architectural design and our execution of building work have developed beyond recognition. We have gained the experience and laid the foundations for designing creative and unique structures as we like, free from the conventional and stereotyped patterns of the past. Moreover, our construction workers have grown in strength and raised the level of their technical skills to a much higher level.

Measures have been adopted that have developed the material and technical foundations of the building-materials industry, the arsenal for grand construction, and progress has been made in producing finishing materials domestically.

In short, at a time when construction is entering a golden age, our Juche-oriented architecture and construction sector are recording remarkable development. They have created numerous monumental structures of which we can be proud before the world.

Architectural projects have been carried out for holding the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il in high esteem for ever and adding eternal

brilliance to the Party's glorious revolutionary history, traditions and achievements. This is the priceless success born of the ardent loyalty and devoted efforts of the officials and workers in the construction sector who have remained faithful to the inherent principles and mission of the Juche-oriented architecture.

Since the first grand short course, we have completed a large-scale project equivalent to building a modern street every year. We have erected wonderful structures that can serve as new standards and models for Juche-oriented architecture in urban, rural and industrial construction and in the construction of cultural facilities. Projects such as the seat and rural villages in the city of Samjiyon, Ryomyong Street, Mirae Scientists Street, Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm, the Sci-Tech Complex and Yangdok Hot Spring Resort are permeated with the resourcefulness and talents of our designers and builders. They stand as masterpieces of Juche-oriented architecture revealing the new face of civilization in the era of the Workers' Party.

In the last year alone, we achieved a breakthrough in hitting the target of housing construction envisaged in the five-year plan by building 10 000 flats in the Songsin and Songhwa districts and by successfully promoting the construction of 5 000 flats in the Komdok area. Through the construction of the Pothong riverside terraced houses district in a characteristic way, we created a new form of architecture and accumulated rich experience that can be spread across the country. Other brilliant successes were

recorded at construction sites across the country, such as those of the Pyongyang General Hospital, which will fulfil a promise from the Party to the people, and the Wonsan-Kalma Coastal Tourist Resort, as well as the project for establishing a C1 chemical industry and the Tanchon Power Station, and renovating the regional-industry factories in Kimhwa County.

A success we recall with a special sense of pride is the sprucing up of Samjiyon, a project of great political and strategic significance for our Party, state and people. Through this project we demonstrated the faith of all our people and their will to defend the revolutionary traditions of the Party and glorify for ever the revolutionary achievements of the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il. We also created a model of regional construction and dedicated a gift of loyalty for the 80th anniversary of the birth of General Kim Jong Il. Availing myself of this opportunity, I extend heartfelt thanks to all the people, builders and service personnel across the country who, in a demonstration of their unalloyed loyalty to the Party and their leaders, devoted their strength and wisdom to the project and were unsparing in their material and moral assistance.

Our grand socialist construction has proceeded without a moment's interruption, in a manner that is unprecedented in its huge scale and boldness, in a characteristic and modern way, and on a three-dimensional basis, even though our state and people are faced with the

harshest-ever challenges and obstacles and despite the intense struggle for achieving the great cause of building up our national strength and of transforming several other sectors through innovation. This is a powerful demonstration of the firm faith, extraordinary creative spirit and boundless patriotic enthusiasm of our people, who are advancing steadily towards the bright future of socialism without flinching in the face of trials, and of the level of development and potential of our state, which is striving to hit a hugely ambitious goal.

In looking back with due pride on the successes we have achieved recently in catapulting construction and architectural art to a higher level, we are filled with optimism for the future bright development of Juche-oriented architecture. Still, we should conduct a proper review and analysis of our mistakes and deviations. We should learn lessons from them and overcome them, for the sake of the further development of Juche-oriented architecture that conforms to our far-reaching ideals and ambitions.

The construction sector currently reveals shortcomings that require prompt rectification, and there are many aspects of it that must be reinforced. Among the shortcomings evident in the design sector are those of failing to emphasize the uniqueness of every architectural structure and avoid repetition, to guarantee that they reflect the aesthetic tastes and emotions of our people, and to ensure their practicality in accordance with their purpose

and function. We still lag far behind in interior decoration, furniture and landscape design. In the case of construction methods, we remain inclined towards wet processing; there is also a conspicuous difference in ensuring the quality of construction work by construction units and by projects; we are too reliant on imports for finishing materials; and the rate of mechanization in construction work is very low. These are major factors impeding us in making a qualitative leap forward in architecture.

More serious still is the failure of officials in the construction sector to be fully cognizant of our Party's architectural ideals, its construction policy, and the Party Central Committee's intention to prioritize the construction sector in developing our style of socialism. Moreover, they have too limited a vision and insight for us to lead the world in construction.

The construction sector's material and technical foundations are not adequate enough to launch and push ahead with construction work without a hitch, as the Party has planned and intends. This, too, is a pressing issue that must be resolved without fail.

With this grand short course as the momentum, the Party intends to bring about fresh innovations in construction work overall, and thus effect another qualitative leap forward by Juche-oriented architecture so that it achieves the world standard. We have a large group of resourceful and talented designers and experienced construction officials and skilled workers who are capable

of taking charge and leading the way in the era of a new leap forward and the development of construction, as well as the ability to support any construction project, however grand. We should tap all these potentialities and raise the revolution in construction to a new stage. In this way, we can continue to write glorious chapters of Juche-oriented architecture in the history of socialist construction.

Our Party has unfolded a grand blueprint for radically transforming the living environment of all the people across the country within 20 to 30 years and making ours an ideal socialist country, a socialist paradise, which is admired by the world and where the people live in comfort and harmony, enjoying the highest quality and standard of civilization. The construction sector is at the forefront in translating this objective into reality.

Construction is an important part of political work. By making it possible for people to feel the benevolence of our Party's people-first politics and of our system first hand, and by encouraging among them an intuitive understanding of the criteria of creation we are aspiring to and the beautiful future, construction leads them to the civilization of a new era and inspires every one of them to devote themselves to the socialist patriotic cause, filled with pride in being the citizens of a great state and confidence in a better tomorrow. In this sense, the current revolution in construction can be defined as a worthwhile undertaking to create priceless assets for the country and, at the same time, a process of ideological education and

cultural revolution for enlightening people and driving them forward towards a bright future.

Construction is also a prerequisite for comprehensively developing socialism and improving the people's living standards. Moreover, it is a patriotic undertaking of lasting significance for creating a civilized future.

If we are so preoccupied with the prevailing challenges that we fail to focus our efforts on construction, we can neither cement the foundations for the development of the state nor furnish our people with a happy life. Construction is a hallmark of progress and renovation and an investment in the future. Only when we give precedence to construction and push ahead with it audaciously can we create fresh potential for sustained economic growth and expand the foundations for cultural progress, and thereby bring about the substantial changes that will be welcomed by people in every realm of state and social life. Our great people have bravely gone through the period of severe trials and training. By bringing about a revolutionary turn in construction, we should vividly show the world the ideals and ambitions our people cherish in their endeavours to make progress at the stage of a fresh upsurge in, and the renewed development of, the revolution, and demonstrate the dignity of a powerful country more dynamically.

We are creating all our structures on the strength of self-reliance, with an eye to the future and in the face of the current difficulties. They will remain as bases for the

well-being of our people and posterity, as solid assets for national prosperity and as historical monuments which will tell future generations of the level of the ennobling ideological feelings and creative wisdom of the people in the era of the Workers' Party.

All the participants should, by making the most of this grand short course, learn to bear deeply in mind the intention of the Party Central Committee to prioritize construction and lead the overall development of socialist construction by dint of innovative changes in the construction sector. They should master the Party's policy on construction and have a full grasp of the matters to be adhered to in future construction.

They should also clearly recognize the good points in construction to date, should understand what were the bad points, what were their causes and what can be done to rectify them, and should share their successes and experiences with one another. This will help them in advancing confidently towards bold innovation and development.

The basic orientation we must follow in construction at present is to prioritize construction projects for the people's well-being, at the same time as pushing forward with the industrial construction and land development that will consolidate the country's economic foundations.

A society's progress and prosperity are inconceivable apart from the level of its people's cultural life. In providing our people with better housing and an excellent

environment for enjoying cultural activities, we can apply the people-oriented policies of the Party and state and the original features of socialism in a more concrete way and bring about a positive change in the rhythm, habits and mode of the people's life and an improvement in their political consciousness and level of civilization.

The housing problem is a matter of greatest concern for our people and a principal issue in providing them with the tangible benefits of the socialist system. The core of the construction policy advanced by the Eighth Congress of the WPK is to make ours the first country in the world to have solved the housing problem. As the congress decided, 50 000 modern flats should be built in Pyongyang without fail; a mountain gorge city, a cultured mining city, of 25 000 flats with a unique character should be built in the Komdok area; and provinces, cities and counties should vigorously push ahead with their regional housing construction according to annual plans. If all this is done, we will basically solve the shortage of houses across the country during the five-year plan period.

In order to enable our people and the rising generations to study to their heart's content, attain a high level of knowledge and civilization and maintain good health, we should build many modern educational and public health establishments with excellent facilities and conditions so that the Party's plan to build ours into a civilized socialist country will be implemented at an early date. Based on the experiences gained and standards set so far, we should push

ahead strongly with modernizing the educational institutions, medical service facilities and pharmaceutical bases at all levels.

To enable our people to enjoy the reality of socialist civilization to the full, we should build, at the celebrated mountains and scenic spots across the country, cultural and tourist resorts that are in perfect harmony with the beautiful natural scenery. We should also continue to lay out distinctive parks and recreation grounds in all towns and villages, and set up modern, high-standard service facilities.

Our Party has put it forward as an important strategic line of socialist construction to fundamentally eliminate the differences between the capital city and provinces and between towns and rural communities.

With a view to stepping up regional construction, especially rural construction, in real earnest, our Party and the government of the Republic formulated a policy and adopted a law for the state to supply cement to every city and county every year on a regular basis. The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK put forward the strategic task of building up all the rural villages in the country in such a way that they maintain the flavour of our style of socialism and clearly sustain their regional characteristics.

Sprucing up cities, county towns and rural villages is a worthwhile undertaking which is welcomed by our people and gives impetus to the construction of a civilized society. The state should increase its investment, true to

the Party's policy of regional and rural construction, and every province, city and county should raise the torch of a revolution in construction so that every provincial seat, city, county town and rural village is transformed into an ideal socialist one.

We should focus our efforts on industrial construction and land development so that fresh foundations for economic development are steadily laid.

The objective we must attain in industrial construction is to create fresh foundations for the development of the national economy, and to provide the working people with better and advanced working conditions by establishing and upgrading not only production lines but also all the industrial, cultural and welfare facilities. Buildings should substantially conform to the requirements of the new era in terms of not only their appearance, but also their operation and profitability.

For the present, efforts should be concentrated, with a view to bringing forward their completion, on the projects for establishing a C1 chemical industry, renovating the Kumsong Tractor Factory, building an energy-saving iron furnace and other major industrial construction projects of national significance. With the Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm as a model, similar modern large-scale farms should be built, and the renovation of the cereal administration agencies in cities and counties, and of regional-industry factories, should be stepped up.

While directing efforts to building key infrastructure

such as railways, ports and power plants, which constitute the foundation of the country's development, we should be working persistently on such land administration projects as sea walls and hydraulic structures, river improvement and road construction. In this way, we can transform the country's appearance, and defend from natural disasters the people's lives and property and the material and cultural wealth they have created through such great exertion.

So, the construction tasks we are facing are enormous and challenging. But if we press ahead with them responsibly without interruption, with the mindset that doing so is an essential process in opening up a broad and smooth road for the state's development and securing a guarantee for improving the people's living standards, not only we, but also the coming generations, will enjoy the tangible benefits and, in the near future, our country will be transformed into a beautiful and ideal socialist country that is good to live in.

The first basic requirement that we should meet consistently in construction work is to establish thoroughly within it the unified leadership system of the Party Central Committee.

As I have just said, construction work, before being a task for creating material wealth, is an important undertaking to apply our Party's people-first politics, improve the level of the people's spiritual and cultural attainments and transform the country's look. Only when the unified leadership system of the Party Central

Committee is thoroughly established in it can construction work be carried out in line with the policy-oriented intentions and plans of the Party, which is guiding the comprehensive development of our style of socialism, and can all the structures created in our era properly embody the Juche-oriented idea and ideals on architecture.

At every stage of construction, from planning to completion, we should concentrate all our thoughts and actions on implementing the Party Central Committee's plans and intentions. At the same time, we should make sure that the Party's policy on construction is the one and only guideline and absolute standard in organizing and carrying out construction projects. A strict rule should be enforced whereby all construction-related matters are reported promptly to the Party and handled in accordance with the Party's conclusion. Only the design ratified by the Party should be adopted in any building, even when something more is wanted or could be done. Undertaking a project without receiving the Party's approval is an abnormal practice which should never be connived at.

The second basic requirement that we should always meet in construction work is to regard architecture as a political matter, an aspect of policy.

Our architecture, if it is separated from its political character, has no value. We reject the tendency to regard construction as merely a practical undertaking, as the pursuit of beauty alone and as art for art's sake. Making architecture political and policy-oriented is the core and the

seed from which Juche-oriented architecture develops. It should be our consistent policy to ensure that structures bear visual representation of the principle of regarding our Party, our ideology, our system and our nation as the best. This can be done by, for instance, displaying political slogans or catchphrases on them. All the structures we build should be lively ones that fully embody the Juche- and people-oriented character unique to our Party and state, our national traits, the people's aspirations and emotions, and the dignity and mettle of our great powerful nation.

The third basic requirement that we should meet consistently in construction work is to create and develop new, original styles of architecture that are representative and symbolic of the era of the Workers' Party.

Architectural style is a visual representation of the aspirations, aesthetic views, level of civilization and national strength in a particular period of time. We should create and introduce into overall construction architectural styles that are symbolic of the civilization in the era of the Workers' Party, typical styles of our own that encapsulate the features of the architectural art to which we aspire. In this regard it is important to ensure that every element of architecture embodies our national style, the spirit of the times and the mettle of innovation and creation. In other words, we should sustain our inherent style and features while meeting the requirements of modern architectural art in our own way.

The fourth basic requirement that we should meet

consistently in construction work is to ensure a high level of economic efficiency and practicality.

Construction requires a huge amount of human and material resources and, once it has been completed, it cannot be reversed—this is its unique feature. Depending on its purpose and standard, a construction project may powerfully lead social progress, or hinder it. Therefore, it should be carried out, based on a scientific calculation in close combination with the long-term national development plan. Moreover, throughout the whole course of the project, from drawing up the master plan to the design and building work, we should strive to achieve economic efficiency and practicality by adopting the optimum options. We should maintain the principle of profitability, actively encourage resource-, area- and energy-saving models in accordance with the global trend and the actual conditions in our country, and perfect every aspect of every structure so that it serves as a base for the growth of our economic potential and the development of our country's civilization and prosperity even after fifty years, nay one hundred years, to say nothing of today.

Keeping to this basic orientation and requirements in construction, we should turn out with a fresh resolve in an all-out effort to bring about a revolutionary upsurge in the era of grand construction.

If construction is to make the dramatic advance desired by the Party, progress and change should be achieved first in design work.

An excellent structure which embodies the Party's Juche-based idea of architectural aesthetic beauty and encapsulates the people's ideals comes from the design desk, and it is at this desk, too, that we take the first big strides towards a civilized socialist country.

Our Party demands that every single line and dot drawn on a blueprint should reflect the ideology, essence and vibrant spirit of the era of the Workers' Party and embody the standards of a civilization that can proudly take the lead globally. As for the architects who are charged with this task, what they need is the enduring perseverance with which to rack their brains and get an ingenious idea or inspiration that is consistent with the Party's idea and ideals and the people's aspirations, and with which they admit or yield to nothing that is not new.

Designers should think, study and strive every minute of their life, well aware that every design they produce will translate our Party's line and policy into reality and open up a bright future for their country.

The central task in architectural design is to maintain the Juche character and our national identity, sustain originality and convenience, and promote practicality and functionality.

As the Party has often stressed, the Juche character and our national identity are the lifeblood of architecture, while originality and convenience, practicality and functionality are the guidelines in drawing up architectural designs. The design sector, while

maintaining the principle of giving priority to convenience, aesthetic beauty and infrastructure construction, should, as required by our Party's construction policy, design all structures in such a way that they accord with the sentiments and aesthetic tastes of our people and with our actual conditions, are diverse and distinctive, and are fit for purpose. This will help to open up a new phase in architectural creation.

Its elevation is the face of a structure, where its attractiveness is primarily expressed.

It is important to avoid similarity and repetition and to sustain the individuality of all structures in designing the elevation. In other words, it is necessary to sustain the characteristics of the structural skeleton of a building while ensuring its formative and artistic beauty so that it is possible to tell at a glance from its outward appearance what it is for. In the elevation formation we should pay attention to finding an original seed that can intently reflect the mission, purpose and characteristic features of the structure and to thoroughly subordinating every part and detail to the seed. In particular, even structures with the same mission and purpose must be designed in harmony with their surroundings, without being repetitive and monotonous while preserving the characteristics of the area—whether mountains, coast or plain.

A structure's appearance should be attractive, and its interior, as well as being practical and convenient, should also be flawless in terms of its aesthetics.

A fundamental principle in interior design is to achieve the perfect combination of practicality, convenience, and artistic and formative beauty. Even though practicality and convenience are being emphasized, formative and artistic beauty should not be neglected, nor should practicality and convenience be overlooked because formative and artistic beauty are being stressed.

Attention should be paid to creating a rational floor plan based on the principles of fully meeting the functional requirements of the building according to its mission and purpose, maximizing the utility rate of the building area, and ensuring its convenience. At the same time, we should actively create and make use of new and diverse architectural formation methods of our own style.

The interior decoration is particularly important in architecture. It can be likened to an art. In interior decoration, the principle should be observed of sustaining modernity and our taste. We should improve the effect of interior decoration by employing such various decorative elements as folding screens and paintings and such methods of decoration as openwork, as well as by arranging the various items of furniture and fixtures in good harmony according to their purposes.

The design sector should pay special attention to encouraging national forms of architecture on a wide scale and designing the exterior and interior of structures so that they suit our national characteristics.

The formation plan for a structure acquires its detailed

features through technical design, and it is the technical design that guarantees that the quality, safety and technical engineering standards are met.

Scientific character, accuracy, rationality and delicacy should all be assured in the technical design. The design sector, in strict accordance with the formation plans ratified by the Party and the technical requirements, should present optimum technical design options which can guarantee the quality and safety of structures with less materials and manpower and fully satisfy the functional occupancy demands and the technical engineering demands while sustaining modern aesthetic tastes and decorative effects.

A considerable effort should be directed to drawing up a draft construction design budget. Those engaged in drafting the budget should eliminate such practices as creating a reserve or incurring waste as a result of an improper calculation of manpower, materials and funds. They should ensure that every single person-day, every gram of cement and every piece of steel is used efficiently.

A fundamental change should be brought about in furniture and landscape design.

At present, since the level of furniture design is not so high, items of furniture that are poorly-shaped, unattractive and inconvenient to use are being manufactured. Even though they may be made from good materials, they undermine the quality of the building's interior.

Furniture designers should hold fast to the principle of designing furniture that is fit for purpose, blends well with

the structure's character and its interior space, and caters to the tastes of the users. While attaching importance to making furniture that is varied, formative, multi-functional and light, they should switch from pre-assembled to flat-pack models and design all items of furniture to suit their purpose. They should encourage the production of light and good-looking furniture made not only of wood but also of various other materials, and choose colours that are congenial to that of the structure's interior space.

In modern architecture, landscaping plays an important role as a means of formation, and its standard is a yardstick for evaluating the level of a country's civilization.

As landscaping is another form of formative art, the design should be given priority, and the work should be carried out according to the design.

Landscaping designs should be drawn up in a characteristically formative and artistic manner and in such a way as to enhance the dignity of the building and sustain the natural scenery, taking into account the surrounding environment, the features of the terrain and the ecological characteristics of the garden plants. Landscape designers should guard against stereotypes in their work, and draw up varied designs, for example by planting trees of high ornamental value in groups, laying out lawns and flower beds in harmony and enhancing the natural beauty through a combination of such elements as artificial hills and rocks.

We should work effectively to widen the vision of landscape designers, should step up the research on

landscaping and should adopt methods that are widely used internationally, as suited to the situation in our country.

The design sector should draw up proper master plans.

Master plans should be drawn up on a long-term basis with an eye to more than 50, nay 100, years ahead, and with their ideals properly defined in line with the Party's intention. They should be based on a scientific calculation of the specific conditions and environment of the region and project and the direction of their development, while making sure their seeds and themes are sustained.

It is important in drawing up a master plan to define the central axis properly according to the area and project, to divide the districts clearly according to their functions, and to form architectural groups in such a way that they retain their unique features. In undulating areas it should be a principle to distribute buildings by making the most of the natural curves and slopes, while in flat areas it would be a good idea to divide them into square districts and settle the location of imposing buildings. Artistic interaction, compatibility and connection between buildings should be ensured in a smooth and refined way, while retaining the unique style of the individual buildings that constitute the architectural formation. In drawing up a master plan, the infrastructure networks, including the water supply, sewage treatment, electricity supply and telecommunications, should be carefully laid out so as to provide the people with the conditions and an environment in which they do not experience the slightest inconvenience.

In keeping with the global development trend, we should study and introduce alternative architectural design options, including green and smart architecture, so that we are competing with the world in terms of the level of our advanced architectural technology. Along with this, we should make a big effort to raise to the world standard the comprehensive level of our design in the construction of ports, railways, roads, bridges and everything else.

The design sector should eliminate subjectivism and formalism and ensure scientific accuracy and promptness in the guidance and deliberation of designs. It should fully realize cooperation and unity among design institutes by branches and systems so as to secure, from the stage of making an operations plan, a guarantee of victory in construction.

The quality of a structure is immediately the quality of the building work.

In ensuring the quality of building work, the primary task is to raise the level of what the builders do. Construction units should promote the efforts to ensure that builders possess the expertise and qualifications for completing any building task flawlessly. In particular, efforts should be made to strengthen the ranks of skilled workers who are good at finishing work. The overall level of technical skills should be raised by effectively organizing technical studies, skills transfer and competition among skilled workers and by forming construction workforce in a rational way so that novices learn and master the building methods while

working alongside highly skilled workers.

The construction sector should establish a proper quality control system, introduce advanced methods to this end, and never allow any concession or compromise concerning the quality of building work.

Construction units should strengthen the leadership bodies of building work that guide building work and provide proper guidance so that it can be done in accordance with the requirements of architectural engineering and aesthetics. They should also keep their workers fully informed of the standards of design and building work and the engineering requirements and make exacting demands on them so that these standards and requirements are fully met. They should conduct an incisive review of work with the focus on the quality. Builders guilty of bad habits and empiricism, who have violated the engineering requirements, should be called to serious account and made to put matters to rights.

The construction sector should overcome the deviation of attaching overriding importance to speed through crash campaigns on the pretext of completing a project by a fixed date, and give precedence to ensuring the quality of a building on the principle of prioritizing quality over quantity.

The quality and speed of building work can be improved by advanced engineering methods. The construction sector should launch a fresh innovation movement to introduce advanced building methods. It

should step up the research into and the invention of material- and labour-saving building methods, including the introduction of dry processing, and should perfect the method of coloured mortar plastering. Construction units should constantly investigate and apply advantageous and new building methods.

If we are to push ahead with construction without interruption at the level intended by the Party and according to our resolve, we need larger quantities of building materials.

In this new era, when the flames of the construction revolution are flaring up, something that is needed everywhere is cement. We should attain the goal for cement production set by the Eighth Party Congress by operating the existing cement factories at full capacity, pushing ahead with the expansion of their production capacity, and building modern cement factories in places that are suitable for cement production.

From this year on, the full amount of cement to be supplied to cities and counties should be produced, and supplied to them without fail.

In particular, the building-materials industry should achieve substantial results in carrying out the Party's policy of attaining self-sufficiency in finishing materials and producing a greater diversity of building materials in terms of type, shape and colour. We can proudly say that only the structures erected by our builders from our own designs and completed with the finishing materials of our own style

stand as symbols of Juche-oriented architecture.

The building-materials industry should push ahead forcefully with developing from our own resources the finishing materials that are needed for construction, and installing production lines for them. It should set proper standards and targets for the domestic production of finishing materials including not only tiles, stone materials, glass and metal and plastic materials, but also heat insulators, coating materials, waterproofing materials, wallpaper, vinyl flooring and wall panelling, and attain the standards and targets in a planned way.

It should strive to lower the production costs of finishing materials while improving their quality and increasing production. It should modernize production lines, proactively introduce advanced technologies for producing building materials, and standardize the building materials in terms of type, material, size, form and colour.

It should step up the research into green building materials, and study how to use various waste materials effectively in their production.

We should work effectively to protect and develop our building-materials industry. While increasing investment in the sector, the state should encourage, from the stage of the architectural design, the use of our own building materials, and adopt measures for restricting import of those finishing materials the demand for which can be satisfied by domestic production.

The Party's policy of making construction professional

and focused should be carried out consistently.

The key to making construction professional is to train specialized workforce capable of fulfilling any building tasks. It is a matter of course that construction should be undertaken on a mass basis, but the principle to be adhered to here is for specialized workers to undertake it.

The state should ensure that the specialized construction enterprises play their role to the full. It should take steps to readjust and reinforce those enterprises that are not playing their proper role, strengthen their workforce, and furnish them with modern construction equipment.

Construction enterprises should not simply depend on supplies from the state, but train their own technical forces, expand the ranks of their skilled workers, and obtain construction equipment and tools for themselves.

Construction should be conducted in a focused manner in strict accordance with the blueprint.

To this end, the initial planning should be done properly.

Not only the state but also provinces, cities and counties should make it an iron rule to regard the Party's policy on construction as their guideline, conduct a detailed assessment of their actual conditions, potential and possibilities, and, on this basis, set their annual targets to the minutest detail and meet them without fail. Construction should be carried out in a planned way with a proper orientation and a proper order of priority, in close combination with the long-term objectives for the

development of the national and regional economy and the improvement of the people's standard of living.

Once a plan has been completed, designers and construction workers, materials and funds should be supplied in a concentrated manner and in reasonable order, and the organization and command of the construction work should be arranged vigorously so as to finish the project on time. Such practices as pretending that they are doing something by conducting construction projects here and there out of a subjective desire and without any detailed calculation, or such as wasting labour, materials and funds by delaying construction, should be eliminated.

Substantial improvement needs to be brought about in making construction scientific and modern.

There should be a change first in the attitude of officials and builders towards, and their stand on, making construction scientific. As construction has a direct impact on the life and safety of the people and social and economic development, officials and builders should always be aware that the whole process of construction, from the foundation work to erecting the framework and the finishing, must be run through with scientific accuracy. They should rid themselves of the deviation of working haphazardly by relying on their experience while neglecting the scientific and technical requirements, and support every stage of a project, from the design to the building work, with science and technology. In particular, every one of them should adopt the stand of a master in introducing the achievements

of the latest science and technology.

Scientists and technicians in the construction sector should, by setting high objectives, launch a drive to conceive and develop new, advanced design and building methods, as well as building materials, equipment and tools, from a Juche-oriented standpoint.

They should organize seminars and symposiums at which, through broad discussions and debates on practical issues, new concepts and the experiences gained, they can find workable solutions, and learn and spread the positive achievements.

The educational institutions in the construction sector, including Pyongyang University of Architecture, should improve the level of their teaching in conformity with our Party's idea of Juche-oriented architecture and with the demands of the developing modern architecture, and should produce a larger body of talented individuals who can shoulder the future of our architecture. Graduates of universities and colleges in the construction sector should be appointed to fields that are related to their major, such as design institutes and construction enterprises, so that they can play the key role in putting construction on a scientific basis. Construction units, for their part, should discover talented individuals and make strenuous efforts to train them into standard-bearers in the development of their respective units. Officials and builders should steadily raise the level of their knowledge by making active use of the system and means of disseminating science and technology.

The greatest weakness in our construction sector at present is that it is not modern. It is usual practice to mobilize a large workforce ahead of a state construction project. This means there are regular manpower problems, the work of other sectors is affected, the speed and quality of construction cannot be ensured, and large quantities of materials are wasted. Conducting manual work at crowded construction sites still today, in the era of the knowledge-based economy, is inappropriate to our architecture's level of development.

We should regard modernizing construction as a crucial task that is of the utmost urgency, and promote it with serious intent.

By modernizing the means of design and establishing a system of disseminating various advanced design methods and CAD software programmes on a regular basis, we can create the conditions for drawing up designs at any level at the earliest possible date and with a high quality standard.

We should radically increase the rate of mechanization in construction work. We should lay state-level foundations for producing modern construction equipment and tools and develop and produce machinery that can be used in various kinds of construction work including not only housing construction but also industrial construction and land development. Construction units should be encouraged to manufacture simple equipment and tools for themselves and to organize regular events, such as exhibitions of tools and invented devices, so as to make the best ones widely known.

The supervision and control of construction need to be strengthened.

If supervision and control are weak, the Party's idea on Juche-oriented architecture and its construction policy cannot be implemented accurately, the interests of the country and people will be infringed, and the safety of structures cannot be guaranteed.

Construction supervision organs should be rigorous in their supervision and control throughout the whole course of construction, in line with the Party's principles and in full compliance with the requirements of Party policy and the country's construction law. They should adopt the attitude of assuming full responsibility for the quality of structures before the Party, state and people, and work according solely to the country's supervision rules and without bending to the will of others.

They should permit only those units that have obtained state approval as required by the regulations to carry out construction work, whatever is being built, and should exercise strict supervision and control over every process—whether the requirements of engineering have been correctly observed in the design and whether the design's architectural and aesthetic requirements have been satisfied in the building work. They should raise the standard for inspecting all completed structures and establish strict rules and regulations whereby structures are used only after they have passed inspection. They should promptly take issue with and combat any practice of

violating the construction law, irrespective of the affiliation of the violator or their reason for doing so, thus allowing no room on any account for illegal actions to take root.

On this occasion I intend once again to emphasize regional construction, and rural construction in particular.

The revolution in regional construction and rural construction, which our Party is determined to carry out without fail, is a massive undertaking without precedent in the history of socialist construction in our country.

This undertaking is a sweeping drive, the purpose of which is to wash away the long-lingering historical dirt from the rural areas and develop them into modern locales where socialist civilization can flourish. It is not a campaign that can be completed in just a year or two, but a highly responsible undertaking that should be resolutely executed with a medium- and long-range vision aimed at creating a new era of transformation of the regional areas and realizing the centuries-old desire of our agricultural workers.

Building up regional forces for architectural design and building work is the most pressing issue in realizing our Party's plan for regional construction. As all the provinces, cities and counties across the country are expected to conduct regional construction simultaneously, true to the measures adopted by the Party, none of them will ever carry out the Party's policy of regional construction if they merely anticipate receiving help from the central design and construction units.

They should strengthen the body of designers who can play the vanguard role in their regional construction, and steadily improve their qualifications.

One of the main purposes of the current short course is to develop architectural design for the capital city and regional areas alike by strengthening the regional design bodies.

Our Party requires regional construction to sustain the characteristics of the specific area. The country's regions differ from one another not only in their natural and geographical conditions and their climate for economic development, but also in the lifestyle habits that have been handed down throughout history. Therefore, if the characteristics inherent to regions are to be sustained, the designers should be fully aware of their respective regions' characteristics, ranging from the natural and geographical features to the unique economic conditions and people's manners and customs, and should be capable of embracing them in the architectural design.

It is necessary to reinforce the regional design institutes with talented people who have architectural insight, and to enhance their qualifications and role. Regional designers should accumulate experience through practical construction work and learn from the designers from the capital city whom they work with. Regions, while making exacting demands on designers to steadily improve their qualifications, should provide them with the conditions for accessing the latest architectural materials from abroad. They should enrol promising individuals,

including those with an aptitude for fine art, in universities and colleges in the construction sector so as to train them as the reserve for their design bodies.

Regions should strengthen their local building workforce so that they can build any structure for themselves at a high level of quality. As I have emphasized before, cities and counties should wind up the work of forming construction brigades and should improve their technical skills and qualifications. Provinces, cities and counties should form competent construction units by enlisting people who have been trained and become highly qualified in specialized army or shock brigade construction units, making them the core, and should expand the ranks of skilled workers in such a way that they transfer their skills to others.

Provincial, city and county Party committees should play a major role in building up their local construction workforce. Despite the prevailing hardships, the Party has set aside a considerable quantity of cement for rural construction. Therefore, provinces, cities and counties should, first of all, have their own powerful construction workforce if they are to push ahead with regional construction on a long-term and qualitative basis with an eye to 100 years in the future. They should be well aware that the work of consolidating their regional construction workforce, the body of designers in particular, is not only a major guarantee for developing their regions in a characteristic way but also an undertaking for creating resources and wealth locally.

Regions should take the path of building up reliable bases for producing finishing materials and developing quality ones by using the resources that are available locally, thus enabling their buildings to preserve their unique characteristics.

They should organize annual provincial building-materials exhibitions and conduct proper reviews and appraisals so that these exhibitions can boost the domestic production of finishing materials and contribute to the development of the country's building-materials industry.

True to the Party's intention, they should draw up realistic plans for regional and rural construction, with the top priority given to building houses in rural communities, and should establish rigid discipline whereby they are carried out without fail.

The officials and workers in the construction sector should radically improve their sense of responsibility and role.

They should adopt a serious approach to the important missions and responsibilities entrusted to them by the Party and the revolution, the country and the people, and fully discharge their duties and role as befits the main force in the current revolution in construction.

They should be well-versed in the Party's policy on construction and strive steadily to master the latest science and technology of construction and all-around construction skills. By doing so, they can prepare themselves fully for

the Party to entrust them with any task at any time, with no worries.

They should all remember that their patriotism will find expression in the quality of the structures they build, and devote their pure conscience, sincere heart and skills even when laying a single brick. They should make it a habit to take loving care of their equipment and tools, achieve maximum economies in their use of building materials, and carry out all their work assiduously and scrupulously.

In the new revolution in construction, the might of the army and people operating together should be dynamically demonstrated once again.

Our People's Army service personnel have done a lot for the gigantic struggle to usher in a golden age of construction as the facilitator of the people's happiness, even in the super-intense situation in which they have shouldered the heavy responsibility of defending the country. The monumental creations in which we can take such great pride before the world as models of Juche-oriented architecture, and the grand construction sites, are all permeated with the patriotic devotion, creative wisdom and talents of our soldiers who always follow the orders and instructions of the Party faithfully. Our Party will never forget their heroic feats for and ennobling devotion to the country's prosperity and the people's happiness, and our people will, for many generations to come, pride themselves on the genuine character of our soldiers who glorified the great era of the Workers' Party.

Our soldier-builders, just as they have done until now, should fully demonstrate the might of our army by becoming standard-bearers in the new revolution in construction and carrying out to perfection every task entrusted to them by the Party, by the date set and at the desired level.

The officials and workers in the construction sector should learn from the soldiers' spirit of regarding Party policy as absolute and implementing it unconditionally, as well as from their immaculate and scrupulous work style befitting the teachers of construction skills, and their vigorous and optimistic fighting spirit. By doing so, they can work new miracles and feats at every construction site and build every structure at the highest level possible as symbols of the civilization of our style of socialism.

Party organizations should fully discharge their duties and responsibilities in the struggle for waging a new revolution in construction.

They should direct a major effort to educating the officials and workers in the construction sector so that their minds are deeply implanted with the greatness and leadership exploits of Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, who built a socialist paradise on the debris after the war and ushered in a new history of Juche-oriented architecture, and of our Party which heralded a golden age of construction in the era of the Workers' Party; in this way, the officials and workers can be encouraged to cultivate ardent loyalty to the Party and the leaders and make

strenuous efforts to wage a new revolution in construction with pride in their missions and jobs.

They should step up ideological education among the officials and workers so that they are fully armed with our Party's Juche-oriented idea on architecture and its construction policy, and apply them thoroughly, and ultimately, so that they support the Party's plans with practical achievements in construction.

They should, by deploying powerful information and motivation forces at construction sites and conducting vigorous information work through visual aids and motivational work for increased labour efficiency, further enhance the spiritual strength of the masses and raise the hot wind of the socialist emulation drive in which every construction site seethes with enthusiasm for creating new miracles.

They should pay primary attention to the lives and safety of the builders, whom our Party values most, and exercise strict Party control, and take practical responsibility, so that no construction work is permitted unless labour safety is guaranteed 100 per cent.

They should provide the builders, whose job involves heavy physical labour, with excellent supplies and services and ample conditions for rest, and should take warm care of their families so that those who are seconded to construction sites have no need to worry about them.

The mission of the officials in the construction sector is very important and heavy, in that it involves providing the

people with the happiest life and bringing about a fresh transformation of the appearance of Juche-oriented architecture by fully applying our Party's people-first architectural idea.

I firmly believe that all the officials and workers in the construction sector will continue to perform proud feats in every theatre of a new revolution in construction, for the sake of the prosperity and development of our great state and the wellbeing of our people, true to the Party's far-reaching plan for grand construction, and thus dynamically lead the way in the development of our own style of socialist civilization.

Let Us Add Further Glory to the Golden Age of Capital City Construction by Transforming the Hwasong Area

Speech at the Groundbreaking Ceremony for a Project
to Build 10 000 Flats in the Hwasong Area

February 12, Juche 111 (2022)

Comrades,

Today, filled with fresh vigour and self-confidence, we are holding an important groundbreaking ceremony for a new street for the people in our capital city, a street symbolic of the era of further transformation.

First of all, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government, I would like to extend warm congratulations and greetings to the builders of the capital city and the service personnel who, at this grand groundbreaking ceremony for a project to build 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area true to the decisions adopted at the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Party, are marking the start of our grandiose endeavour in 2022.

This project is one of the major tasks facing the construction sector this year. It is the second such project for attaining the long-term goal of housing construction in Pyongyang which our Party had been desirous of achieving

for a considerable time before launching it last year. It is also the first stage in building a new, modern urban district in this area.

The long-term plan for developing the capital city approved by our Party and the government envisages the creation in this area near the sacred place of the sun and adjoining September 9 Street of splendid streets and a new administrative district with tens of thousands of flats, as well as public buildings and welfare service facilities. It will be completed within three years or so.

If the goal of building 50 000 flats in Pyongyang, which includes this gigantic project, is attained with success, our Party will have fulfilled the most important promise it made to the people, and the housing problem for the capital's residents will have been fully solved.

This is why the Party and the government are pushing ahead so forcefully with the construction of 10 000 flats in Pyongyang every year, even though the conditions and circumstances at present are more challenging than ever before.

Comrades,

That we have been able to launch this important and gigantic project in the Hwasong area as planned in the second year of implementing the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress is entirely thanks to the efforts of the builders and service personnel who have committed themselves to Pyongyang's development.

Last year the project to build 10 000 flats in the Songsin

and Songhwa area was carried out, despite the tough conditions where the country's economic situation was harsh and difficulties were piling up.

Our builders pressed ahead bravely with the construction as planned, overcoming all the trials with an indomitable will and through a strenuous effort. In less than a year they built at Pyongyang's eastern gateway a splendid street lined with high-rise and super-high-rise apartment blocks.

As a result, we can now visualize, in the run-up to the Day of the Sun, numerous delighted residents of the capital moving into new homes on the new street.

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee expressed its great appreciation for this achievement.

Because this effort had resulted in such a major success, the Party Central Committee could confidently decide on and organize the construction of 10 000 flats at the next stage. So, today we are holding the groundbreaking ceremony to proclaim the official start of housing construction in the Hwasong area.

Our Party has never doubted that the tremendous enthusiasm for labour and the aggressive spirit of progress witnessed last year will be displayed in this year's project, or that more inspiring and more significant successes will be achieved.

Our builders are proud artists and dignified trail-blazers possessed of miraculous powers. As such, they are writing

a new chapter of prosperity and development in the era of the Workers' Party.

The Party's people-oriented policies are becoming the reality wherever the workers of the country's major construction units and the service personnel of the People's Army are dispatched. As a result, homes where countless people will live for generations to come are appearing and monumental creations symbolic of the civilization of the era are springing up year after year.

A fierce struggle for grand construction is under way, and in the course of it vacillation and lack of ability are being overcome, courage and wisdom displayed, backwardness and stagnation eliminated, progress and innovations achieved, and the power of our state and people to shape the future increased.

In short, the vigour of our advance and development is being demonstrated in practice, and every obstacle, in other words, the challenges both objective and subjective, is being removed and smashed to pieces. This represents a crushing blow to the forces that are hostile to us.

Herein lies the transformation, the revolution and the victory we aspire to.

And the masters occupying the vanguard of this revolution are you, the builders.

Our builders are the pioneers and dependable vanguard fighters of our era, who conceive of tomorrow while living today and are bringing forward the dawn of a beautiful future.

I am convinced that, thanks to our Party's sound policy on construction and to the builders' creative labour, our construction sector will change and develop to become more advanced and progressive while sustaining its socialist character, which is the original feature of our people-first architecture, of consistently serving the aim of promoting the people's wellbeing.

In building apartments in the Hwasong area this year as part of the grand construction project, we should push ahead with it in a more dynamic and detail-oriented way by making the most of the experience and lessons we learned from the construction of 10 000 flats in the Songsin and Songhwa area.

The grand construction project is a gigantic creative effort to bring new entities into existence by concentrating the country's human, material and technical resources on it. Therefore, whether it is a total success or not depends on how it is planned and commanded.

The project headquarters should conduct a detailed assessment of the existing construction workforce, the building materials production capacity and the transport capabilities, as well as seasonal factors. Based on this, it should draw up a well-thought-out plan for each process of the design and building work, and push ahead with it forcefully.

In construction we should try to give definite precedence to building materials supply. We should also aim to ensure both the quality and speed of construction

by enhancing the role of the building units and supervisory bodies.

In this, it is important to eradicate the short-sighted view of stressing only the immediate building tasks in planning and commanding construction projects. To this end, we should steadily execute scientific proposals and plans aimed at developing the construction sector on a long-term basis.

The grand construction project, including the development of Pyongyang, is a matter of national importance and hardly something that can be completed in a year or two. It is a long-term undertaking to be continued at an increasingly higher level even when all our people are living in good houses and even after the whole country has undergone a facelift.

Therefore, there should be no delay or slowdown in anything related to the construction sector, whether in consolidating its material and technical foundations in terms of both quality and quantity, in producing various kinds of building materials domestically, in raising the proportion of work done by machines, or in widely introducing advanced building methods and architectural technology.

All these issues should, throughout the whole course of construction and at every stage of the building work, be addressed, carried out and reviewed in the planning and design, the materials supply and in the observance of the quality requirements. And new initiatives, reasonable

technical proposals and audacious endeavours should be actively encouraged and put forward.

In this way, if a new street of 10 000 flats is built every year, not only will the appearance of the capital city and, beyond that, the whole country be transformed, but also our construction workforce will grow in strength and a fresh advance will be recorded in our approach to construction.

Ultimately, by promoting the successful construction of houses and the modernization of our construction sector, we will be ready to carry out more gigantic and ambitious construction projects in the future.

Our Party regards the great enthusiasm, sense of responsibility and sincere efforts of every official and builder for construction as the key and decisive factor that is vital to its success.

This is why our socialist construction sites are brought to life by inspiring slogans, fluttering red flags, and resounding marches.

Novel and inspirational political work encourages everyone to cherish ennobling ideals and beautiful hopes, to take a sense of honour and pride from their enthusiasm and endeavours becoming a source of great strength for their collective, and to learn from the positive examples and merits of others. This work is a source of dynamism unique to socialism, which trains ordinary working people into innovators and performers of feats and which works miracles, whatever the circumstances.

You should conduct vigorous frontline political work so that all the builders feel a sense of mission and pleasure in creating with their own hands the ever-growing happiness and development of our times, and so that they take great pride in bringing forward the dawn of a more cultured future through their efforts.

You should stir up a hot wind of collective emulation for overtaking and learning from one another and give fuller play to your patriotic enthusiasm. By doing so, you can build, here in the Hwasong area and before the eyes of the world, a flourishing socialist living space which is permeated with a great generation's indomitable perseverance and untiring spirit of creation, and which is filled with people's happy laughter.

Comrades,

Today our grand construction front covers not only this construction site of 10 000 flats in the capital city, but also the whole country.

Numerous construction projects designed for the sake of our great state's prosperity and development and for the people's well-being are being planned or are under way at major metallurgical and chemical industry bases, at the construction sites of new power plants, at tideland reclamation sites, in the Komdok and Ryonpho areas, and in rural communities across the country.

All these construction projects constitute a powerful engine for the comprehensive development of socialist construction. Among them, the housing construction

project in the Hwasong area is the main theatre, and it should take the lead.

In implementing the Party's policy on construction in a perfect and thoroughgoing way and conducting intense and energetic campaigns in high spirits, the construction units deployed in the Hwasong area should naturally become standard-bearers and models for all the other theatres of construction.

I firmly believe that all the builders and service personnel present here will feel an extraordinary sense of glory and pride in building a new street for the people, and will, through their redoubled wisdom, enthusiasm and fortitude, complete with credit and on schedule the construction project in the Hwasong area.

For the great new era of the development of our own style of socialism,

For our Pyongyang, and

For bringing earlier the happy day when our parents, brothers, sisters and children will move into new flats in the dramatically-transformed Hwasong area,

Let us all wage a dynamic struggle!

Let the People's Army Fully Demonstrate Its Militant Mettle in the Construction of the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm for the People of South Hamgyong Province

Speech at the Groundbreaking Ceremony
for the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm
February 18, Juche 111 (2022)

Comrades,

Today, on the road of great creation for the people, we have marked another proud and worthwhile milestone.

Several days ago we started building the 10 000 flats planned for the capital city in 2022, which is of great significance in solving the housing problem for the people of the city. And today we are holding the groundbreaking ceremony for a large-scale greenhouse farm that will contribute greatly to the livelihood of the people in the city of Hamhung and South Hamgyong Province. The Central Committee of our Party and the government of our Republic regard this as a very auspicious and honourable undertaking.

First of all, I offer a militant salute to the service personnel and other builders who have come to this project site with a determination to render a contribution to promoting the people's wellbeing by

successfully carrying out this project, which is a top priority in the construction policy of our Party and state.

Comrades,

The Central Committee of our Party has always regarded it as a matter of crucial importance to solve the problem of supplying vegetables for the people of Hamhung, a major industrial and science city in the country, and of South Hamgyong Province. For several years it has been considering the construction of a modern greenhouse farm here, and has been developing a plan for it.

It had already decided to turn a key military base on the eastern front into a modern vegetable production base that would serve the working class and scientists in Hamhung and other people in South Hamgyong Province, who are striving so hard to play a major role in the development of the country's economy, and its science and technology. So, at the Fourth Plenary Meeting of its Eighth Central Committee, our Party identified the construction of the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm as a key project for this year.

Having confirmed the site of the project and set the orientation of its construction, it formed a powerful project headquarters and made preparations for the construction's full-scale launch. As a result, we are holding this significant groundbreaking ceremony today.

This construction project, undertaken in accordance with the Party Central Committee's intention, is an

important initiative for building a modern farm that will contribute greatly to improving the people's living standards. It will also create another new standard in implementing the Party's policy of building greenhouse farms.

If, in the natural and climatic conditions in our country, we are to supply our people with adequate quantities of fresh vegetables all year round, we should build large numbers of greenhouses and put vegetable production on a modern, intensive and industrial footing.

This is why we built a large-scale greenhouse farm in North Hamgyong Province, where vegetable farming is not as effective as in other regions, and saw to it that valuable experience was gained through the project.

The construction of the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm, which we are launching today, is a very important undertaking for promoting the large-scale construction of greenhouse farms, which began in North Hamgyong Province, extensively and at a higher level.

The Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm, which will be the largest and most modern greenhouse farm in our country, will be twice the size and have twice the production capacity of the Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm which was inaugurated two years ago. It will also be equipped with far more advanced technology and facilities with regard to nutrition guarantees, environment management and production automation.

In addition, some 1 000 flats of new and varied styles,

along with all the necessary public facilities including schools, a hall of culture and comprehensive service establishments, will be built in a characteristic way to form a new farm district embodying the civilization of our era.

It is the Party Central Committee's intention not only to build this greenhouse farm into a large-scale vegetable farm with an annual production capacity of tens of thousands of tons, but also to make it a model farm for disseminating advanced agricultural technology, a new base for the creation of the rural civilization of our style, and a cultured socialist farm where it is good to work and live both in name and in reality. Its intention is also to push ahead with the country's overall rural development more dynamically and more confidently with this farm as the standard and beacon.

Such a modern greenhouse farm has been considered as an ideal and something for the future. If one is built here soon, in a place which is currently heavily influenced by gales from the sea, it will give greater confidence and encouragement to all the people across the country, to say nothing of the people of Hamhung and others in South Hamgyong Province.

It is a great honour for you, the officers and men of our army, to be undertaking the whole construction of such an important farm.

You have valuable experience in building a modern greenhouse farm and, in particular, through its construction you fully demonstrated the spirit of devoted service to the

country and the people and a pure conscience befitting soldiers. The Party Central Committee took this into consideration when it decided to entrust you with the construction of this greenhouse farm.

In building the splendid Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm you gave your honest sweat and devotion, as you would to your own parents and siblings. Because you did so, the people of Chongjin and others in North Hamgyong Province are now enjoying the benefits of the farm and are happy that the vegetable problem, which was one of the biggest challenges they faced in life, has been largely resolved.

Now you should give similar pleasure to the people of Hamhung and others in South Hamgyong Province.

Mindful of the intention and expectation of the Party that has summoned you to this project, you should complete the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm creditably before the founding anniversary of the Party this year, by giving full play to the militant mettle of our revolutionary army.

If you are to finish this project in the 230 or so days prior to the Party's founding anniversary, you should launch a fierce construction campaign, based on a level of preparedness and determination that is far higher than that at which you worked at Jungphyong. You should also act boldly to introduce further innovations to the existing standards and mode of construction. In this way you can generate the Ryonpho spirit of creation and stir up the hot wind of Ryonpho, in the true meaning of both phrases.

Precedence should always be given to political work for heightening and amplifying the soldier-masses' spiritual strength, which exemplifies the absolute superiority of our army and the source of its invincible might. The organization of and command over the project should be conducted in a detailed and spirited manner, along military lines. Then the whole construction site will seethe with militant mettle and the zeal for creating new miracles.

During the construction you, officers and soldiers, should strengthen your cooperation while competing with one another. You should proactively share your positive experiences and advanced building techniques, economize on building materials to the maximum, and maintain a tidy environment in the area surrounding the construction site. If you do all this, you will ensure that another new culture of construction in our era is created by the People's Army.

Although you have come to a different theatre of operations and combat, you should always be mindful of the fact that now you are standing at the very forefront for cementing more solidly our great army-people unity, which is more powerful than any strategic weapon. And you should make every effort to ensure that the greenhouse farm, for which the people are waiting with such pleasant anticipation, is completed as soon as possible.

In building a greenhouse farm, the highest quality standard should be guaranteed without fail. This is something I have always stressed.

Just as you did when building the Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm and completing several other major projects flawlessly, you should, this time again, make sincere efforts and apply meticulous building techniques to every process and detail of the project, with the mindset that you are erecting buildings in which your parents and siblings will live and work.

In short, you should present the people with a farm that is a ten-out-of-ten architectural structure in terms of not only its functions and architectural aesthetics, but also its quality.

South Hamgyong Province should participate actively in the project.

Although the People's Army is taking overall charge of the project, it is the province itself that will benefit from it. So, it is natural that the province should contribute to it as much as possible.

The province should provide enough aggregate for the soldier-builders to push ahead with the project without delay and should create windbreaks as appropriate to the geographical features of the coastal area. The province should offer every other possible assistance for vigorously promoting the project.

As this greenhouse farm is to be ultra-modern, it is especially important to ensure that the technical workforce is well prepared.

The South Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee and the agricultural guidance organs should form an effective

farm management staff, team of technicians and body of employees, and make sure that they are technically qualified. They should also ensure that all the operational supplies, including vegetable seeds and farming equipment, are provided before the project's completion. Then, from next year they can supply the people of Hamhung with vegetables that are mass-produced here on a regular basis.

It is the Party Central Committee's demand that this project should serve as an example of construction guidance.

Well-knit work and guidance systems should be established for the project headquarters, the field guidance team and every department. Officials should adopt a far-sighted and responsible manner in their work to ensure that the project is pushed forward in strict accordance with the schedule and standards set by the Party.

Comrades,

We can see the ranks of elite units of our People's Army standing in fine and proud array, and in a few months' time we will see a sea of greenhouses standing just like them. This valuable farm for our people will be a rarity in the world, and will represent the major transformation of the Ryonpho area.

While imagining the merry laughter that will ring out in every house and looking forward to the bright future of our country whose greater prosperity will be reflected in that laughter, let us all exert ourselves to erect buildings for our people as early as possible.

The Party Central Committee has ordered the courageous officers and men of the People's Army to present the people with a perfect, modern greenhouse farm as a gift. I firmly believe that you will carry out this order with credit by working with all the militant mettle of a revolutionary army, upholding with burning hearts the slogan "We serve the country and the people!"

Glory to the devoted struggle of our army that is absolutely loyal to the people!

**Let Our Courageous Young People
Display to the Full Once Again
in the Capital City of Pyongyang
Their Unique Indomitable Spirit**

Speech at the Groundbreaking Ceremony
for a New Street in the Sopho Area of Pyongyang
February 25, Juche 112 (2023)

Dear members of the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade who are bringing with them to this major site of capital city construction, the mettle and spirit of sacred Paektu,

Dear young volunteers who, true to the ennobling duty and calls of the times—“For the victory of our cause!” and “For our capital city of Pyongyang!”—have come here from across the country,

When I see you, gathered here, as the embodiment of the vigour, bravery and passion of the millions of young people across the country, I feel rejuvenated and immensely encouraged.

I have come here today to get a personal sense of the mettle of our proud young people who, filled with ardour, a fighting spirit and confidence for achieving a decisive advance, are standing at the forefront in the construction of the capital city, and to encourage you.

I feel particularly delighted to be proclaiming with you the breaking of the ground for this important project to build a new, modern street, a project which will write another proud chapter in the annals, resplendent with courage and exploits, of our country's youth movement.

Now as I stand here, I am reminded of the unforgettable day when, eight years ago in the lead-up to the 70th anniversary of the founding of our Workers' Party of Korea, I celebrated with the young fighters born of Mt Paektu the commissioning of a majestic new power station which had been built at the foot of Mt Paektu, with the words *Hero Youth* written on its dam.

This power station is a solid fortress of our young people's faith, built with youthful vigour and warm, untainted patriotism and loyalty in defence of our cause; it is also a monument dedicated by them to their motherland. The immortal feats performed by the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade are etched in golden letters in the history of our Party and of the Korean youth movement.

The spirit of the heroic Paektusan youth was carried forward solidly in the vigorous battles to splendidly transform the city of Samjiyon, a place sacred to the revolution, and to rebuild the railways in the northern mountainous area, and has spread like a prairie fire to every site of struggle across the country. This spirit has become a symbol of the indefatigable characteristics and fighting mettle of the young builders of our era and an element in the invincibility of socialist Korea that is rising

in a unique way in the face of trials.

With the conviction that, if this great spirit is elevated to a higher level, any project, however enormous, can be carried out briskly, our Party has decided to arrange a new theatre of activity, a grand theatre for our young people, where they can fully display their burning patriotic zeal once again in the course of spurring the comprehensive development of socialist construction.

More specifically, it has decided to entrust the Socialist Patriotic Youth League and Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade with the whole of the key project to build a unique street of more than 4 000 flats at the northern gateway to the capital city of Pyongyang, which is being carried out in addition to the project to construct 10 000 flats in the city during 2023.

The Party's intention is to help our young people to demonstrate more powerfully at the grand construction site in the capital city the heroic spirit and patriotic devotion unique to the Korean youth and to prepare them better as successors to the revolution, the reserves of the Workers' Party and able builders of socialism.

No sooner had the Party called on them, than as many as 100 000 young men and women from all the youth league organizations across the country volunteered to help build the capital city. Amid the warm encouragement and a send-off from everyone around them, they immediately left for Pyongyang. Seeing this, the whole country was deeply moved.

In the course of this, our laudable Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade has been expanded and reinforced several times.

I have no doubt that our young builders will create, at the northern gateway to Pyongyang, a proud and world-startling symbol of the development of socialism and its future by displaying the mettle of the Korean young people who are prepared to brave fire and water in response to the call of the Party and motherland and who love nothing more than to carry out the revolution and to work.

Dear young builders,

At a time when the golden age of construction in Pyongyang is reaching its zenith, you have joined in it as honourable builders.

The importance of the tasks assigned to you young builders does not lie only in the fact that you will help to increase by several thousands the number of flats for the capital's residents.

The new street you will build is truly a worthwhile and proud project, which is geared to ushering in a new phase in the development of Juche-oriented architecture.

A grand street axis and residential quarters will be formed, consisting of super-high-rise apartment blocks and other homes of various designs standing in good harmony with the public buildings. It will serve as a model and provide important experience for the development of Juche-oriented architecture and, in particular, for the construction of the capital city.

The vast group of structures in this unique street will vividly illustrate the prestige of our country which is advancing by leaps and bounds, and will clearly and proudly demonstrate to the world the dynamic progress our struggle is making by developing in a more extensive and vigorous manner in the face of the harshest ordeals and difficulties.

In this sense, this is not simply a construction project, but a form of political campaign indicative of the character of our revolution.

It is a revolutionary mission of crucial importance, and it has been entrusted to you.

I believe that I will be able to witness, in your energetic endeavours here at this site, the fact that the mettle and fighting spirit which pulsated among the young people of the preceding generations, of performing, in whatever they did, feats which would represent the times and be recorded in history, is still pulsating among the young people of the current generation.

As you all know, it is not only the project for building 4 100 flats here that has been launched on the construction front in the capital city this year, but also the second-stage project for building 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area and the construction of the Kangdong Greenhouse Farm.

Because all these construction projects are designed for the wellbeing of the capital city's residents and for motherly Pyongyang, our glorious capital city, our Party attaches equal importance and is giving strong impetus to them. Even so, I emphasize that it is paying particularly close attention

to the construction of the new street, for which you are responsible.

This is partly because the completion of this street is of great significance, but more importantly because it is highly meaningful and precious in that the 100 000-strong contingent of young people who have come from every part of the country will be tempered in a revolutionary manner and grow up in the course of the work.

Construction of the new street will be a challenge, as you must complete this colossal project in a short period of time. So, once the project is launched, you are likely to encounter difficulties from the outset.

However, the strength of hot-blooded young people who are burning with loyalty and patriotism can overcome any trials and hardships.

Because you lack experience and skills and you are unaccustomed to hard work, you may waver or lose heart. But you must courageously prevail by relying on your organization, the collective and your comrades and by recalling the pledges you made when you volunteered.

By learning from and assisting one another you can make collective innovations in carrying out the project and devote your pure conscience and sincerity to ensuring that every element of the project is of high quality and can be bequeathed with pride to posterity.

In the structures rising floor by floor, the whole country will see how our young people are growing stronger and wiser with each passing day, and in the grandeur of the

wonderful new street at the gateway to the capital city, it will see how their ideals, ambitions, lofty dreams, courage and daring are growing beyond recognition.

Like the generations of your grandfathers and grandmothers, fathers and mothers, you will share the youthful pride and honour of having shed your precious sweat in the construction of the capital city, and will record in your personal accounts meritorious deeds which entitle you to refer with pride to my capital city, my Pyongyang.

Moreover, with the mode of struggle and approach to creation they have acquired in the capital city construction, the huge contingent of young people who have grown up here will, after returning to their home towns and villages, take the lead in the efforts to bring about radical change. This is the greatest outcome our Party prioritizes over anything else in the construction of the new street.

Praiseworthy young builders,

The time has come for you to work a miracle.

In the present era of successive struggles, we are pinning our hopes on your spirit.

It is time for you to prove your true worth.

The people of Pyongyang are encouraging you, young builders; the youth league organizations that have recommended and dispatched you and your parents who have willingly let their beloved children take leave of them are watching you; and all the other people across the country are looking forward to the successful outcome of your struggle.

Besides them, the whole world is watching to see what the heroic mettle and unyielding struggle of our Korean young people can achieve.

I am fully convinced that the laudable Socialist Patriotic Youth League and Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade will, through an indomitable and heroic struggle, prove themselves worthy of the call of the times and the expectations of the people, and will thus build here without fail in 2023 a splendid new street reflecting our young people's heightened temperament, incomparable heroic spirit and precious honour.

I hope that every one of you will overcome the trials in good health and emerge as honourable victors without fail.

Comrades,

For the dignified honour of the young people of Korea, for the eternal prosperity of our socialist state and our capital city of Pyongyang, for our parents, siblings and friends, let us all mount a courageous struggle.

KIM JONG UN

**LET US BUILD STRUCTURES
FOR THE PEOPLE IN
A LARGER NUMBER**

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