

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

# **KIM JONG UN**

## **SPEECH DURING A CONGRATULATORY VISIT TO THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE TO MARK THE 76<sup>TH</sup> FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY**

*February 8, Juche 113 (2024)*

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

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

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

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

Officers and soldiers of the 12<sup>th</sup> Corps on the northern border and the Border Guards,

Courageous officers and soldiers of our other services,

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

On the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the

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

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

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

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

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

These past 76 years have been truly glorious for our army, filled with numerous tales to tell and with victories and feats, despite the manifold trials.

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

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

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

Our People's Army was a gain our people achieved through a protracted struggle to win back their lost rights to exist and develop, freedom and every other

right. Its most important and sacred mission has been to firmly defend our sovereignty so that it would never again be taken away from us or violated.

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

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

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

a prosperous country with a powerful army.

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

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

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

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

In this way we have rid ourselves on our own initiative of the fetters of unrealistic developments in

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

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

It is an everyday occurrence in the present world for national sovereignty and territory to be violated ruthlessly and blood to be shed as a result of the imperialists' policy of achieving supremacy and their

violent moves of aggression. In this situation it is our revolutionary armed forces alone, led by the Workers' Party of Korea, that are honourably defending the dignity of our country and people while achieving undeniable victories at every stage of the anti-imperialist confrontation.

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

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

The loyal and dependable ranks that share weal and woe with the Party, readily accept its orders and directives whether they are military missions or economic tasks, and always carry them out without

delay and in the most perfect and thoroughgoing way—this is our People’s Army.

Long explanations have never been necessary for our soldiers.

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

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

In the protracted course from the first days of rebuilding the country on the rubble after the war until today, socialist construction has been our primary revolutionary task, as important for the People’s Army as defending the country’s sovereignty. This task has never been treated any more lightly or been deferred, however harsh and severe the circumstances.

The metallurgical-industry bases and coal and ore mines which constitute the foundation of the national economy, the railways and roads which constitute the

country's arteries, and the crop fields, irrigation waterways and reclaimed tidelands which serve the improvement of the people's livelihood—all the development and creative projects undertaken across the country are associated with the exploits of our army.

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

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

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

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

projects and the struggle to increase grain production and recover from natural disasters.

All our generals, our officers and their wives, and our ordinary soldiers took the lead in overcoming the food shortage that arose at the outset of the year by cutting their rations; they carried out without fail the tasks the Party entrusted to them by waging a more progressive and offensive struggle. Thus they recorded the year as the most glorious in the history of the army's development, filled with legendary exploits and miracles.

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

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

Our army is currently undertaking the most sacred and gigantic struggle of the ten-year revolution to

radically transform regional industry in response to the call of the Party. Its proud colours are fluttering vigorously, calling for a fresh upswing in the revolution across the country.

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

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

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

always gain great strength and courage from them.

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

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

Comrades,

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

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

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

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

Comrades,

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

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

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

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

We should be prepared at all times for war.

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

Comrades,

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

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

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

Eternal glory to our proud revolutionary armed forces!

Long live the heroic Korean People's Army!

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