

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM JONG UN

**CONCLUDING SPEECH
AT THE EIGHTH CONGRESS
OF THE WORKERS' PARTY
OF KOREA**

January 12, Juche 110 (2021)

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Dear delegates,

At this Congress, the eighth in the history of our Party, the agenda focused on the immediate fighting plans for opening the era of a fresh upsurge and massive transformation in the revolution and construction and the important tasks for developing the Party, and it held in-depth discussions of it.

The Congress first reviewed and analyzed the work of the Seventh Central Committee of the Party in a comprehensive, three-dimensional and detailed manner, and then discussed in great depth the line and strategic and tactical problems for the new struggle to achieve radical progress in socialist construction.

The report, the speeches and the consultative meetings by sector reviewed and criticized in a detailed and severe manner the deviations and mistakes latent in all sectors, ranging from Party, state and military affairs to social life, and expressed a solemn determination and will to rectify them.

Additionally, active investigations and discussions were conducted with a view to identifying ways of hitting the goals and tasks in the new five-year plan period. The constructive opinions raised in the course

of this were presented to the committee for drafting the decisions of the Party Congress.

The discussion of the first agenda item clarified what our Party, state and people must do in the future, and how. It also defined our fighting strategy for achieving a fresh victory in our revolution.

Unlike previous Congresses, our Party at this Congress reviewed and analyzed its work from a critical standpoint, not seeing only its merits. This is of no less significance than the successes it achieved during the period under review.

The Congress also conducted a critical and strict review of the work of the Auditing Commission of the Seventh Central Committee of the Party, and adopted decisive measures for putting to rights, in our own way and in line with the principles of its building, anything outdated and unsuited to the present reality that was revealed in the Party's work and activities.

The Rules of the Workers' Party of Korea were revised to properly reflect the principles of Party building and Party work and the demands of the developing reality. This has created a vital framework for strengthening the Party's leadership capability and fighting efficiency and achieving its sound development.

The Congress has formed the Eighth Central Committee of the Party, made up of comrades who are faithful to the Party and the revolution, and highly qualified. It has also established a new discipline inspection system within the Party. This constitutes a major turning point for our Party in discharging its mission and role as the competent General Staff of the revolution.

Dear delegates,

At this Congress, thanks to the great trust of all of you and all the other members of the Party, I have again been honoured with the supreme leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea.

I feel greatly honoured that you elected me to the important position of General Secretary of the dignified Workers' Party of Korea, although my heart is made heavy by the overwhelming gratitude I also feel.

I am fully aware of how noble the mission is of representing and taking charge of the great Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist party. I solemnly pledge that I will make every effort to implement the fighting programmes put forward by this Party Congress, and that, regarding our great people as my god, I will, even at the risk of my life, be their faithful servant and work for them devotedly.

The Eighth Central Committee of the Party, elected with the unanimous approval and support of all of you, dear delegates, will demonstrate its correct and seasoned leadership capability to achieve fresh victory in building our style of socialism and will faithfully perform the duty entrusted to it by the times, true to the high expectations and trust of all the Party's organizations and members.

Dear delegates,

The external environment for our revolution at present is still grim and acute, and our revolutionary work will not be all plain sailing in the future, either.

But there are no hardships that cannot be overcome by our Party and people who, in the worst conditions and difficulties, have scored great victories that others would not even have dared to target.

We must renew our confidence and courage, and quickly embark on the road of sustainable progress and development by waging a vigorous struggle to consolidate the strength of our Party, our revolutionary ranks and our state in every way possible.

Achieving a great, renewed victory on all fronts by markedly increasing our independent strength, our internal forces, in socialist construction—this is the

main idea and main spirit of the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

In other words, it is the revolutionary will of the Workers' Party of Korea, reaffirmed at this Congress, that we must comprehensively readjust and restructure our internal forces and, on this basis, launch a frontal attack against all the hardships in order to open up the road of a fresh advance.

The heavy historic tasks facing our revolution require the entire Party, once again, to deeply cherish the ideals of "The people are god," single-hearted unity and self-reliance, and adhere more strictly to them.

The ideal of "The people are god" reflects our Party's consistent demand that it must hold fast to the revolutionary trait of regarding service to the people as the starting point and absolute and invariable principle of its building and activities, whereas the ideals of single-hearted unity and self-reliance intensely embody the ideological and theoretical standpoint and policy-oriented requirements concerning the lifeblood and motive force of our revolution.

In the ideals of "The people are god," single-hearted unity and self-reliance lie the key to enhancing the leadership capability of our Party, the

fundamental means by which it can strike deeper root among the masses, and the basic, sole guarantee for us to survive and open up a way ahead.

I would like to suggest that, instead of a high-sounding slogan, the Eighth Party Congress should issue a call to continue to cherish deep in our hearts the Party's three ennobling ideals of "The people are god," single-hearted unity and self-reliance.

The entire Party must embark on a historic, courageous advance in the direction indicated by this Party Congress, based on exceptional preparedness, self-confidence and enthusiasm for setting out on a new journey.

First and foremost, we should launch a do-or-die struggle to implement without fail the new five-year plan for national economic development.

Socialist economic construction is our most important revolutionary task, and for the present we should focus an all-out effort on it.

In order to overcome the current difficulties facing us, stabilize and improve the people's living standards as soon as possible, and provide a firm guarantee for achieving self-prosperity, we must resolve the economic problems, which are the most challenging problems, with utmost urgency.

First of all, we should set the right direction for a major thrust on the economic front and concentrate our efforts on it.

The central tasks under the new five-year plan for national economic development are to substantially promote economic revitalization by focusing on the metal and chemical industries, the main link in the whole chain of economic development, and consolidating the organic ties among key industries, and to raise the people's living standards to a new, higher level by enhancing the material and technical foundations of agriculture and increasing the use of domestically-available resources in light industry.

We must take the road of first focusing our efforts on putting the metal and chemical industries decisively back onto a normal track, the track of revitalization, and, based on this, shoring up other sectors simultaneously.

We must organize nationwide economic work efficiently, on the principle of giving priority to the development of the metal and chemical industries.

It is important to step up economic operations and guidance in such a way that we can make the most rational use of the national economy's potential for radically increasing steel and chemicals production

capacities, instead of dispersing it randomly.

We must orient all economic work towards achieving balanced stability and an improvement in the people's living standards.

In this, it is important to continue to direct efforts to agricultural production and thus achieve a basic solution to the problem of providing the people with food.

During the new five-year plan period, the agricultural sector must redouble its efforts and the state must increase its investment in it, so that the target for grain production is met without fail.

In particular, in the coming two to three years, the plan for compulsory procurement by the state must be set at a level similar to that of 2019 and implemented without fail, and the amount to be procured must be increased in a sustainable manner, so as to make it possible to ensure a regular grain supply for the people.

During the new five-year plan period, light industry must increase the production of consumer goods, regarding it as the main link to obtain raw and other materials domestically and recycle waste. In this way it can bring about a fresh advance in the efforts to improve the people's living standards.

The state should take strong economic and technical measures to ensure that all the other sectors supplying light industry with raw and other materials can normalize their production.

Next, all sectors and units must identify the concrete tasks and the means by which they can execute the new five-year plan for national economic development, and carry them out without fail.

By drawing on the lessons we learned during the period under review, the Party Congress conducted an objective and strict examination of this plan and set new feasible fighting tasks by aligning them as closely as possible with the reality.

It is vital that all sectors and units first draw up carefully-considered plans by stages and by years, based on a prediction of the conditions and environment that will be created in the future.

Once these plans have been set out, the relevant units must execute them without fail by conducting scientific and concrete operations and leadership. Meanwhile, the state must establish rigid discipline whereby the fulfilment of every index of the national economic plan is strictly kept track, promoted and reviewed.

The success or failure of the new five-year plan for

national economic development depends on how economic management is improved.

The economic departments of the Party Central Committee, the Cabinet and the State Planning Commission, as well as factories, enterprises and all other sectors, must work in concert to take decisive action for improving economic management.

We must push forward energetically with the research into and the perfection of our economic management methods so that they are not only suited to our specific situation, but also geared to achieving optimization and ultimate efficiency. This can be done, for example, by combining those methods that have been developed and introduced on a trial basis with the experience of units that has proved effective in their business and enterprise management.

During the new five-year plan period, the Party and state must focus on restoring and strengthening the system and order by which the economy operates under the unified guidance and management of the state.

Strict sanctions must be imposed on any unit guilty of impeding the unified guidance of the state by claiming special importance, even after this Party Congress.

The Cabinet and the State Planning Commission,

with a view to strengthening the independence of the national economy and increasing production, must intensify the organization and guidance of economic work so that sectors, factories and enterprises establish comprehensive ties and full cooperation in production.

Science and technology must, through practical development, fully guarantee economic construction and the improvement of the people's living standards.

Science and technology are the engine of socialist construction and the major driving force for national economic development.

The sector of science and technology must set as its targets those high-priority tasks and other research projects that are geared towards accomplishing the new five-year plan for national economic development, and concentrate its efforts on implementing them.

During the new five-year plan period, we must raise the country's science and technology to a higher level and strengthen the creative cooperation among scientists, technicians and producers. In this way we will be able to solve one by one the sci-tech problems arising in economic construction and in improving the people's living standards.

We must lay the foundations for developing the

regional economy and improving local people's living standards by promoting the independent and diversified development of cities and counties.

The living standards of people in provincial cities and counties, including rural communities, are currently very low and backward.

We intend from now on to focus on developing the regional economy and improving the local people's standard of living.

The state must press ahead with providing 10 000 tons of cement every year to every provincial city and county.

While the focus of preferential measures is building their own reliable economic foundations and developing in line with their own features, provincial cities and counties must be provided by the economic guidance organs of the state with proper guidance and assistance.

We must vigorously step up the three revolutions—ideological, technological and cultural—in the rural communities and increase state support so that we decisively strengthen our rural position, consolidate the material and technical foundations of agricultural production, and transform the socialist countryside in such a way that it is cultured and prosperous.

During the new five-year plan period, a nationwide effort must be directed to developing education and public health, so that all the people, whether they live in the capital city or the provinces, can enjoy tangible benefits from the socialist educational and public health systems.

We must prioritize rigorous education and strict discipline throughout the Party, across the country and amongst all the people, so that we can staunchly suppress and control every manner of anti-socialist, non-socialist practice revealed in all fields of social life and every manner of criminal act, such as the abuse of power, bureaucratism, corruption and the imposition of extra economic burdens on the people.

We must regard as a matter of importance the strengthening of our national defence capability in terms of both quality and scale.

We must, while further enhancing our nuclear deterrent, strive to the utmost to make our military capability as powerful as possible.

We must continue to give fresh impetus to making the People's Army an elite and powerful armed force that is fully ready to fulfil its mission and role as the driving force of national defence, whatever the threat or emergency.

We must raise the level of our defence science and technology and meet the goals and tasks for munitions production without fail. In this way we can, during the period of the new five-year plan, have the greatest military strength for guaranteeing the historic onward march of our Party.

In order to carry out with success the responsible, important revolutionary tasks currently facing us, we must, above all, strengthen the Party and enhance its leadership role.

A golden age in the development of the Party and the revolution will be ushered in when the organizations of the whole Party are built up into loyal vanguard ranks, work in a revolutionary and enterprising manner, and satisfactorily perform their role as the political general staff of their units.

All Party organizations must, by directing their main efforts to internal work, streamline the ranks of their cadres and members and develop them into an elite force. They must also intensify the guidance over Party life more than ever before, and thereby steadily consolidate the Party's organizational and ideological foundations.

We must establish a well-knit system of and fresh approach to Party work throughout the Party so as to

make it a working party, a fighting party, a militant party.

Party organizations must brace themselves to launch organizational and political work in a bold, high-spirited manner in order to implement the new line of struggle and the new strategic and tactical policies, and they must play a proper role as helmsmen in the work of their units.

They must eliminate such tendencies as being so engrossed in economic work alone that they take administrative affairs upon themselves, and they must observe the iron rule of resolving all problems arising in the revolution and construction strictly in the Party-oriented, political way of giving full play to the spiritual strength of the Party's members and other working people as well as officials.

In particular, the Organizational Leadership Department, the Information and Publicity Department and other departments of the Party Central Committee, in implementing the decisions of this Party Congress, should step up Party-oriented, policy-oriented leadership in a carefully-planned and aggressive way.

Officials, the commanding personnel of the revolution, must fully discharge their duties and

responsibilities in the vanguard of the advancing ranks.

Their abilities and their role are decisive to the destiny of their units and sectors.

The manifold trials and difficulties facing our revolution at present and the great cause of building a powerful country assigned to our generation demand that officials shoulder all the burdens and display extraordinary ability, enthusiasm and devotion in their work.

Now more than ever we badly need officials who make painstaking efforts to achieve even the slightest easing of the concerns and worries of the Party and state, who know nothing but the revolution, who work and strive to do anything as long as it is for the good of the people, and who carry out every task expeditiously.

All officials must be determined to prove their loyalty to the Party, revolution and people through their working ability and practical results. To this end, they must make completely new working arrangements for starting the great new journey after this Party Congress.

Always mindful of the expectations of the people, they must redouble their efforts so that they can

review their daily results with pride and good conscience.

They must learn with an open mind that they do not know, improve themselves where they are lacking ability, even if it means burning the midnight oil, and make increasingly exacting demands on themselves without permitting any sign of complacency or inertia. In this way they can bring about a drastic improvement in their fighting spirit and working style.

Every Party member must play the core, pacesetter role in the efforts to implement the tasks set by this Party Congress.

If they redouble their efforts and occupy the vanguard in braving the current hardship, there will be no difficulty we cannot surmount, nor any fortress we cannot seize.

All Party members must play their role at the most challenging and labour-intensive work sites by championing the spirit and soul of the earlier generation who, with their indomitable mental strength and through a heroic struggle, won a great victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, and who successfully completed postwar rehabilitation in a short span of time by tightening their belts.

The heaviest duties in fulfilling with credit the

sacred fighting goals and tasks set by this Eighth Party Congress are entrusted to the newly-elected members of the Party's central leadership body and all the delegates here.

The newly-elected members of the Eighth Party Central Committee must at all times and in all places be mindful of the precious trust and expectations of the Party's members and other people, and produce substantial results in their work by displaying a high sense of responsibility and devotion in the struggle to implement the tasks set by this Party Congress.

Having personally discussed and decided on the tasks set by the Party Congress, all the delegates must throw themselves heart and soul into a stubborn struggle to ensure that they are carried out without fail at their posts and workplaces.

The delegates, who understand better than anyone else the urgency of the requirements of the Party and the revolution, must deeply implant the idea and spirit of this Party Congress in the hearts of the masses and rouse them by setting personal examples. By doing so, they can bring about remarkable progress in the work of their sectors and units.

Dear delegates,

We must ready ourselves to launch a more arduous

frontal attack for achieving fresh victory and a brilliant advance in our socialist cause.

The hostile forces will try more frantically to check our advance, and the world will be watching how we achieve our Party's political declaration and fighting programmes.

As long as we have the burning loyalty and invincible might of the single-hearted unity of all our Party's members and the other people and service personnel, who support the ideas and decisions of our Party through consistent action and practice, we are sure to emerge victorious.

Let us all fight on with greater vigour for the brilliant fulfilment of the fighting programmes put forward by the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, for the development of the glorious WPK, for the victorious advance of the revolutionary cause of Juche, and for our great people.

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