

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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Speech at the Inauguration Ceremony
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Dear Pyongyang citizens,
Delegates attending the celebrations of the October holiday,
Officers and soldiers of the construction unit and construction workers who have realized another long-cherished desire of the Party by building a wonderful, modern hospital in our capital city of Pyongyang,

Medical workers and other staff of Pyongyang General Hospital,

Comrades,
The long-awaited moment has come when we are proclaiming the inauguration of this hospital.

I am proud that we have achieved the first outcome of the public health revolution, which our Party decided to launch in order to protect and inject vigour into our precious lives. I also find it intensely moving that we have managed to translate into reality something that has been one of our ideals for some years.

This is truly one of the most fervent wishes I have wanted to fulfil, and something that has always been in the forefront of my mind.

In recent years, there have appeared modern medical facilities in various parts of the country; this is a model hospital that meets the highest standards.

Modern medical facilities are indispensable in ensuring that the working people enjoy the rights granted to them by the state.

With the development of the times, people's requirements regarding the protection of their lives and the promotion of their health far exceed those regarding their material and economic life. A country's public health situation can be called a mirror and yardstick of its appearance and of the character of its social system.

Our country's public health system is particularly advantageous and people-oriented, in that it values the people's lives above all else and the state takes responsibility for the health of the entire population. Yet today, in terms of material and technological foundations, public health is weaker than any other sector; hospital facilities in particular are outdated.

That is why, long ago, I conceived a plan of building a first-rate general hospital that would perform the backbone functions and role in our country's public health sector, and I ensured that the preparations needed were made over several years.

Pyongyang General Hospital is a modern medical centre, the architectural style, components and environment of which are designed to help patients remain stable both mentally and psychologically, and which meets the general requirements of modern architecture. The specialist facilities and equipment of all its systems meet every health and hygiene standard, and help ensure the scientific accuracy and smooth operation of its medical services.

Building the hospital was costly, but I am delighted that we now have a model hospital that can provide our people with an excellent medical treatment environment and advanced medical services. And my pride in waging the revolution is greater than ever before.

This modern general hospital, the operation of which is conducive to promoting our people's health and protecting their lives, is located in the heart of the capital. This is an auspicious event to be recorded in the annals of our times, when transformations are taking place that meet the people's beautiful dreams and ideals.

Today what I am delighted with first of all is that I have achieved a true desire and objective of mine, which is to build Pyongyang General Hospital as a

worthy and genuine gift for our people.

As I said before, certain difficulties and complicated issues occurred in the course of building this hospital, owing to the undisciplined arrangements made by some fame-seeking individuals. However, we have taken the necessary steps and, by remaining unfailingly faithful to our basic mission, have fulfilled our sacred duty of absolute service for the people.

Under no circumstances should we allow Party policy to be undermined by personal fame.

We are now standing here, with pride in having defended the people-oriented character of Party policy, which must never be undermined.

I would like to affirm that the vitality of the policies pursued by the Workers' Party of Korea lies in their absolutely people-oriented character.

Pyongyang General Hospital will leave its name in history as a symbol of the genuine and deep sincerity shown by the Party, as a hospital which was built from A to Z on its own responsibility and equipped with the best possible facilities for the sake of the people.

Herein lies the true value of this gift our Party is offering to the people on the occasion of its founding anniversary.

I would like to avail myself of this happy occasion

to express my special thanks to the officers and soldiers of our Guards unit, all the construction workers and the staff of the design institutions, who have made devoted, sincere efforts to build this excellent hospital, true to the Party's policy and decision on the development of the public health sector.

Also, I would like to congratulate the officials, doctors, nurses and other staff of the hospital who are present here, who, with an ennobling mission of serving the people, are delighted at being posted to this fine hospital.

Comrades,

All the plans conceived and pushed forward by our Party are aimed at protecting the people's lives and improving their quality of life. This definitely demands that we accelerate the development of the public health sector.

Our Party's strategy for modernizing the public health sector is, in essence, a strategy of simultaneous promotion.

In other words, it is to reinforce the public health sector all at once by simultaneously promoting the construction of central and regional hospitals, individual healthcare facilities and medical service

infrastructure across the country, and combining medical treatment and services, personnel training and scientific research.

Pyongyang General Hospital can be referred to as the parent body of our modern public health service, a powerful engine that will play the leading role in dynamically carrying out the public health revolution which has just begun and which the whole nation will witness.

As a centre of diagnosis and treatment, clinical study and dissemination, academic exchange and expert training, the hospital can play the pivotal, core role in modernizing the public health sector. An engine, pacesetter and assistant in the development of public health, it can provide all the other hospitals to be built across the country with scientific, specialist and systematic guidance and human, material and technological assistance.

I expect that the standard-bearers and hardcore personnel who will play the major role in modernizing the public health sector will be trained here, and that new models and fine experience in treatment, scientific research, services and management will be created here and spread across the country.

Today, as we launch a new revolution aimed at

rejuvenating and achieving a leap forward in the public health sector, we have completed a major project of great significance.

Comrades,

The mission of Pyongyang General Hospital is extremely important and all its officials, doctors, nurses, workers and technicians present here are shouldering heavy responsibilities.

With the hospital nearing its opening, it is imperative to make the best possible preparations for its operation.

This is the first time for us to run an advanced hospital and provide the latest medical services in our country.

As our medical workers lack experience in operating comprehensive modern medical facilities, it would be advisable to normalize the operation of the hospital from November, after they have acquired a full understanding of the relevant equipment.

They should take good care of the precious medical equipment and apparatuses, as these are indispensable in providing the people with advanced medical treatment, and they should master their different functions so as to bring about a substantial improvement in medical services.

It is important to continually update the functions for improving the level, convenience and utility of the intelligent medical service system at Pyongyang General Hospital so as to steadily raise the comprehensive IT level of the in-hospital medical services and management.

We directed special attention to selecting every medical worker for the hospital and building up the ranks of its staff with able and promising personnel who hold the highest qualifications in the public health sector, have rich clinical experience and are capable of operating the country's centre of healthcare. They should all become genuine medical workers who devote the medical knowledge and skills they learned under the state's care solely for the good of the people. Then they will become a medical team that is trusted and appreciated by the people.

In the current era changes and transformations that would have been unimaginable in the past are taking place in the public health sector, too, and this is thanks to the rapid development of science and technology. So, they should never rest content with their existing knowledge, skills and experience.

They should work hard to master the latest medical techniques and positively apply methods of

diagnosis and therapies in their clinical practice, in keeping with the development trend of modern medicine. By doing so, they can steadily improve the quality of medical services.

It is important to organize refresher courses, practical training, experience exchange workshops, sci-tech presentations and the like in accordance with a proper methodology in order to broaden the horizon of medical workers and improve their skills. And it is also necessary to provide conditions for the related specialists to hold joint research and consultation with foreign medical and health care institutions.

As I mentioned before, all the duties of Pyongyang General Hospital are of key importance in carrying out the public health revolution, many of which are pioneering projects involving new research, applications, introductions and formulations.

They include the study, introduction and formulation of the most appropriate and effective modes of medical service and management that can satisfy the people's demand for scientific, advanced treatment at a more modern hospital and by medical personnel with high specialist skills and qualifications.

However, projects are currently progressing slowly and unsatisfactorily, being hampered by unrealistic

management methods and old-fashioned laws.

We should go full steam ahead, without any further delay, with fundamentally overhauling the established institutional mechanisms which, having remained in force for several decades, have lost their vitality and bring people no substantial benefit, as well as with improving the structural systems and irrational methods of operation that are not in keeping with the changing reality and are hindering the development of the public health sector.

We have decided that Pyongyang General Hospital should take the lead in discovering and applying rational and effective methods and plans that meet the people's requirements and the reality. With their advantages and vitality confirmed, we can create the necessary legal conditions and environment for generalizing them, in conformity with the specific conditions in the regions, units and objects concerned.

The word *revolution* itself means a struggle to replace everything that is old and backward with something that is new and advanced, and it inevitably goes hand-in-hand with qualitative change.

We must solve this problem without fail if we are to ensure that the results of the public health revolution, which we are working so hard to achieve,

make a substantial contribution to protecting the people's lives and promoting their health, and if we are to provide a guarantee for the sustained and long-term development of our socialist public health sector, which is responsible for the health of the entire population.

There is an obvious reason why the public health sector is weaker and more sluggish than other sectors in its development.

It is the political disease, that is, a wrong way of thinking and manner of work that have been prevalent in this sector. Although they are well aware that the existing management and operating system and methodology retain obvious limitations, which allow no step forward to be taken in the sector as a whole, officials persist in obstinately maintaining them, on the pretext of the permanency and characteristics of the public health system.

There is an inevitable change that needs to be made, and there is a clear roadmap for it. But as the officials are making no effort to devise appropriate measures for it, being obsessed with how to shirk their responsibility while keeping hold of their posts, hospitals are not functioning as well as they ought to, and the medical appliance and pharmaceutical

industries are plodding along sluggishly, and have even regressed. This is a well-known fact.

I want to make it clear that solving this problem is part of the mission and responsibility of our public health law, which is designed to maintain the people-oriented character of our socialist public health system and accelerate its development. It is also a key matter of the state.

In this regard, I would like to mention that we should identify the main indicator of the public health revolution in steadily developing the nation's medical science and technology and updating the public health law, and that in carrying out the revolution hospitals should bear their due responsibility and cooperate with it, as well as being engaged in it.

Hospitals should be prepared, on a preferential basis and in both material and technological terms, to introduce the latest achievements of medical science and technology into their clinical work. This alone will provide the basis on which to develop the country's public health law and advance its medical science and technology quickly.

In future, we should set up a proper framework capable of providing a legal guarantee for drawing up a long-term plan for building hospitals on the basis of

not only an estimate of the present level of medical science and technology and the immediate demand, but also a proper estimate of future trends in their development and possible changes in demand. Then we can produce their designs accordingly and ensure their construction.

Present here are members of the Party central leadership, and I would like to ask you to identify your particular tasks in ensuring that Pyongyang General Hospital performs its mission to the full as the central base in facilitating the development of our country's medical and other public health organs.

I believe you will all adopt a responsible standpoint and make voluntary practical efforts to realize the Party's intention of putting our public health sector onto the most advanced level by strongly pushing ahead with its renovation.

Comrades,

Today we have taken a huge step forward on the journey of the public health revolution.

Yet, this is only a new milestone and another starting point for us.

Building modern healthcare facilities should be continued and steadily promoted until everyone in the country has full access to decent medical services.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to refer to a number of projects for building modern healthcare facilities.

First, we intend to establish an independent organ specializing in the design of healthcare facilities.

The foremost process in the campaign for modernizing the public health sector, which is going full steam ahead at the moment, is the design of its facilities.

A healthcare facility can be called an ensemble of architectural art and an integration of architectural technology.

A hospital is a specialist technology space which exerts strict demands, as its technical interaction must be ensured from the infrastructure terminals to the last piece of medical equipment or appliance. It is also a sort of cultural space which should incorporate comprehensive welfare service facilities. So, hospital design needs a much higher level of proficiency than that of other kinds of structure, like a theatre or hotel.

Considering the characteristics of healthcare facilities, steadily upgrading their design in terms of architecture is something we need to pay continuous attention to.

We need to make it a rule that a review design

should reflect the latest thinking, whenever an important project is finished.

Pyongyang General Hospital has been further upgraded and developed on the principle of drawing up an architectural design by attaching importance to the utility, capacity, specialization and functionality of a relevant facility, while ensuring its economic effectiveness and profitability.

Still, there are some parts which have had to be rebuilt due to shortcomings in its design. And there is something, albeit trifling, I feel regretful about from the point of view of the future.

Only when we draw up a design that reflects the latest thinking will we be able to make the most of that which is good and rectify that which is inadequate so as to move steadily ahead. Then we can blaze a trail and make uninterrupted progress in every construction project.

In building hospitals, we should embrace the highest possible modern, progressive and specialist features.

Since it is backward by comparison with other sectors, the public health sector should begin at the stage of laying its foundations by intensively introducing and assimilating the world's most

advanced and progressive elements.

We need to adopt immediate organizational measures for setting up an institute which will specialize in designing structures, ranging from central, provincial, city and county hospitals to clinics and pharmacies.

We are also going to consider forming a team or organization to take charge of the project for renovating public health.

It is an undeniable fact that we cannot do anything or take a single step forward while the Ministry of Public Health, which exists in name only, remains as it is.

If a hospital or pharmacy is to be built, design organs are in the habit of demanding that the ministry supply the requirements for the building process.

So I recently reprimanded the design sector.

The Ministry of Public Health exists in name only, lacking anyone who has common sense and ideas. If they were asked for the requirements for a building process, how could they present anything proper?

What can we expect from those who have done nothing about the hospitals, the foundations of public health, leaving them to stagnate for over half a century?

Let me cite as an example the uniforms for the doctors and nurses of this Pyongyang General Hospital.

Recently I examined these uniforms. They looked like the white cloth used in making sacks. I was dumbfounded, and issued a severe reprimand.

Their response was that the nurses' uniform was tailored according to a design from the Central Industrial Design Bureau, as there was no standard model. But it just looked like a uniform for an attendant or hairdresser.

Is it as challenging to design the uniforms for doctors and nurses according to common sense, as it is building an industrial establishment? And does designing them require funds?

They could have got help and presented even a few designs if they had only looked at some foreign magazines. But this was the last thing the Ministry of Public Health and the Central Industrial Design Bureau did.

Let me ask: Is this the attitude of state organs working for the state and the people in the spirit of service for them, which we advocate?

Is this all they could do?

From this simple example we can easily imagine

the present state of the Ministry of Public Health and the standard of the staff at this organ.

They are devoid of common sense and ideas; worse still, they have no desire to do something fresh. We are too short of time to awaken them and make them work properly.

This is the reason that has led us to determine to form a relevant team or research organ.

Based on this measure and the experience we have gained in building Pyongyang General Hospital, we are now going to have a second general hospital built in Pyongyang.

What I mean is that, in addition to the big, large-capacity Pyongyang General Hospital, a second hospital will be built, in consideration of the population of the capital, which will fully satisfy their demands for outpatient and other medical treatment.

Under study also are a plan for building general hospitals in the provincial seats on a par with the central hospitals and a plan, as a link in the whole chain of the drive for consolidating the foundations of the country's public health system, for setting up essential medical facilities in places between city and county hospitals and ri clinics.

We plan to report these future plans to the coming

Party congress.

Comrades,

It is our consistent stand that the strength and advantages of the social system cannot be expected from a state that is devoid of the will and capabilities to satisfy the demands of its people for protecting their lives and promoting their health.

To be absolutely clear; it is our will to push ahead powerfully with building up the country's public health system and transform it in the near future.

Building up our public health capabilities is actually as crucial as building up the nation's capabilities for defending people's lives and safety against the threat of war.

In view of the intrinsic demands of our society, in which human life is valued above all else, and the demands of the reality, in which public health is becoming more closely associated with the security and future destiny of our state, I think that building up the public health foundations should naturally be regarded as the most important of state affairs.

The heavy duty of carrying out the public health revolution which we, as revolutionaries, have assumed courageously for our precious people, demands that we, faithful to our duty, wage a steadfast struggle and

redouble our efforts.

Comrades,

Let us work as hard as we can for a more beautiful future when our people will enjoy a rich and cultured life in happiness and good health.

I hope that Pyongyang General Hospital will remain forever a facility that injects vigour and inexhaustible vitality into our people, a palace where their health and laughter are protected.

With the sincere wish that all our people will enjoy good health and lead a happy life, and with a renewed determination to serve them more faithfully, I will end my inauguration speech here.

Thank you.

KIM JONG UN

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