

KIM JONG UN

**LET US MAKE SELFLESS,
DEVOTED EFFORTS FOR
THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE**

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WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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Let Us Redouble Our Efforts for the Good of Our Great State and People

Congratulatory speech at a dinner held at the end
of the meaningful year 2023 in appreciation
of the efforts of members of the central
leadership body of the Party
December 31, 2023

Comrades,

We will soon be seeing out 2023, a year of continuing struggle.

We have worked resolutely this year and have, without fail, achieved the successes we desired and aspired to. By doing so, we have filled it with events that will open a new epochal phase on the road of our revolution's advance.

I find it difficult to remember a year like this one, when our painstaking efforts have led to such proud successes and conspicuous changes.

These precious successes are a fruit of the strenuous and devoted efforts made by all of you, the members of the leadership body of the Party Central Committee who are present here.

I thank you, comrades, for all the efforts you have made this year.

There was no one who failed to bring anything to the December Plenary Meeting that proudly reviewed 2023. Every one of you had defended your post with a sense of responsibility, working against overwhelming odds to perform the daunting tasks

confronting you, and remained faithful to the mission the Party and the people have entrusted to you.

Tough as the going has been, you have continued to advance through the hardships. In the course of this, you have been further tempered ideologically and mentally, refined your traits and significantly improved your abilities, gained valuable experience and lessons, and become further confident in yourselves.

A success of 2023 that is no less precious than those that are immediately evident is the fact that our leading officials have become better qualified. This, above all else, makes me happy.

It provides a solid guarantee for the victories we will continue to achieve in the new year.

I am confident that if, in the new year, we press forward in the same staunch, proactive and pioneering spirit, we will perform with credit the important duties we have assumed for our revolution and people, and achieve more than what is expected of us.

Comrades,

More tasks lie ahead of us.

What we have done so far is trifling and small, when compared with the happy life and future for our people that we are dreaming of.

We have no cause to rest on our laurels with what we have done so far, nor any right to be satisfied with it.

We should feel remorse for our failure to live up to the people's expectations, and always mindful of them, should work hard to make 2024 a year of redoubled efforts for the good of them and our great state.

To our great Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

To the health of all the people, all Party members and all the

service personnel of the People's Army, who will be greeting the new year soon, and

To the happiness and peace of all the families across the country,
I propose a toast.

Speech at the Ceremony Marking the Departure of the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade for the Rehabilitation Sites in North Phyongan Province

August 6, 2024

Commanders and members of the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade, vanguard ranks of young revolutionaries who are unswervingly faithful to the revolutionary cause of our Party,

Officials and members of the honourable Socialist Patriotic Youth League, who, as members of our Party's dependable reserve and the vanguard organization of our revolution, are defending our Party and revolution with a steely mettle and positive action,

I cannot repress my delight and pleasure at seeing you here, brimming over with a soaring patriotic spirit and the courage and fortitude that are unique to our brave and ardent young people.

As this send-off to the disaster-stricken areas shows, our young people have once again responded to the call of the country, the people and the revolution with willing enthusiasm and courage.

By yesterday, less than a week after the Party took the decision to dispatch the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade to the housing construction in the affected areas in the city of Sinuiju and Uiju County and the Central Committee of the youth league subsequently issued an appeal, nearly 300 000 young people had volunteered to go to the areas recovering from flood damage. In which other country could one witness such

explosive and willing enthusiasm?

I want to boast to the world about the young people of this country.

To choose to meet challenges of one's own accord and to volunteer to devote oneself to something wonderful is far removed from what most people are prepared to do; this is all the more so for young people.

You will feel dignity and pride, and also face mountains of difficulties. But by courageously volunteering to take this path you have once again proved to the country and the people the original features and honour, and the immutable, unique traits, of Korea's young people who have earned the valuable title "patriotic youth."

Around the world, prioritizing their desire for individual comfort and pleasure is the lifestyle choice of young people. But our young people are preserving and glorifying their true nature with enthusiasm, wisdom and practice by overcoming, through a struggle, the obstacles on the road of their advance.

Your deeds originate in your all-embracing belief that you should share your destiny with socialism for ever, and your ardent love for your country. They are a manifestation of your beautiful outlook on life with which you find the honour and worth of your life on the road of dedication to the Party and the revolution.

You regard the country's hardship and the people's misfortune as your own pain, and so you have fervently supported the decision of the Party Central Committee and identified your revolutionary task in carrying it out. I feel proud and honoured to think that this large contingent of such laudable and stalwart young people is adding strength to the Party and the country by powerfully demonstrating

the stout mettle of the Korean youth with their hearts burning with fervent enthusiasm.

I extend warm thanks to you all, comrades.

I also offer warm greetings to the parents who have, without hesitation, sent their dear sons and daughters to the grand construction sites, and also to the organizations and officials of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League at all levels who have, through their earnest appeal, inspired so many young people to volunteer.

Commanders and members of the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade,

Other young people and students,

I cannot suppress my surging emotions when I see your radiant eyes as you await the moment of departure for another difficult and challenging battle. You will face it with the ennobling and pure conscience of always remaining honourable before your parents and siblings, the rising generation and the Party and the motherland, and with an ardent enthusiasm for volunteering.

The courageous advance of the young people who respond to the call of the country with burning hearts and volunteer without hesitation to tackle the difficult and challenging projects that are considered particularly important by the Party and government, and the subsequent victories they achieve through an indomitable struggle, have become a consistent trend of our era.

The hot-blooded young people are volunteering one after another to join the youth shock brigade that, after creating legendary tales of construction in the Paektu area in the new era of the Juche revolution, was awarded the sacred title “Hero.” They are growing up as the reserve backbone of the Party and merited patriots in socialist construction by cultivating the traits and temperament of

a true revolutionary in the vibrant practical struggle for the country and the people. This has become a dream and aspiration of our young vanguard.

In your indefatigable struggle, you are keeping alive in your pure hearts and steadily carrying forward our youth's great tradition of loyally supporting the Party from one decade to the next and generation after generation.

The enterprising spirit and soaring mettle unique to our young people, and their ever-growing vigour serve as an incomparably precious and powerful engine for our Party and people in attaining high goals and tiding over impending difficulties.

The Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade and the Socialist Patriotic Youth League have, every year for over a decade, built magnificent edifices that reflect their merits. They have experienced and proved through an indomitable struggle of their own choice, how they are inheriting the spirit of loyalty and patriotism bequeathed to them by their forerunners.

I am convinced that today's departure ceremony will serve as a prelude to a dynamic advance that will be noteworthy in the history of our socialist country and proudly included in the honourable and proud history of the revolutionary movement of the Korean youth as another chapter of their growth in a great struggle marked by heroic feats.

Your revolutionary advance will be recorded in the history of the country as a splendid demonstration of the soaring patriotic enthusiasm of the fine sons and daughters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which is opening a new era by its own efforts without wavering in the face of any challenge.

The period of trials in our revolutionary work and life is

continuing, but the revolution is still advancing and construction projects are being carried out on a more massive scale and with greater confidence, thanks to our firm faith and will and to our unyielding struggle to realize our dreams and ideals earlier.

For over 300 000 young people to have volunteered immediately for grand construction, true to the call of the Party and the revolution, is a laudable deed that instills redoubled viability and vitality into our society and enhances the greatness of our people. It is strong testimony to the sure guarantee of the invincibility of the socialist cause of our own style; it is more welcome and inspiring even than the news of a wonderful new street or some new factories being built.

Our youth movement is gaining one victory after another in this way. It is making a powerful contribution to demonstrating the justness and might of our style of socialism.

It is with such an indomitable spirit and through such a heroic struggle that our young people are growing up and achieving victories, generation after generation, decade after decade.

I am sure that our proud and dependable young vanguard will emerge victorious without fail in the current effort to build thousands of houses in the devastated northwestern parts of the country.

Comrades,

I went to an affected area just a few days ago, and my heart felt heavy beyond description.

It is heart-rending that the precious area where our people live was left vulnerable to the heartless choice of nature and its destructive power.

Fortunately, thousands of lives in the Amnok River basin could

be saved in emergency rescue operations. But many threats remain.

We can never allow natural disasters to threaten the lives and safety of people in different regions several times a year.

That is why we are going to turn the current rehabilitation project into an undertaking of lasting effect by concentrating all the forces of the Party and the state on ensuring that people in the Amnok River basin will no longer suffer from flooding.

We must persevere in carrying out the challenging tasks, if we are to emerge victorious in this war against the forces of nature. The task of primary importance, that of building thousands of new houses in the city of Sinuiju and Uiju County to provide the flood victims, before winter sets in, with a cradle more wonderful than the previous one, has been entrusted to you, young people.

The rehabilitation work to be launched in the Amnok River basin, as a gigantic construction campaign for completely renovating part of our territory, will be equivalent to bringing about a transformation.

But I am convinced that you will execute the task without fail, since you learned the iron truth of struggle, precious experience and the secret of invaluable victory in building a magnificent, durable dam in the sacred Paektu area, where the Korean revolution struck root, and in creating legendary tales of youth when you built Jonwi Street.

By working bravely for the revolution, with ardent affection for and an unshakable belief in socialism and without any fear of trials and adversities, you will prove that your fighting effectiveness can overpower the destructive force of nature, and you can powerfully demonstrate once again the revolutionary traits and unexcelled creative strength of the young people of a

new generation, who are boundlessly faithful to the cause of the country, the people and the Party.

Comrades,

You should regard it as your priority task to instil confidence in the unhappy disaster-stricken people and bring about a change of atmosphere by ensuring that all the construction sites seethe with your revolutionary mettle and optimism.

You should not think of yourselves as mere builders.

The officials and members of the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade and the Socialist Patriotic Youth League being dispatched to the affected areas are a special detachment of the Party.

The sight of young people, who represent the future of the country, advancing courageously to the rehabilitation sites, gives the flood victims tremendous strength and instils in them confidence and optimism for the future.

Through your lively struggle and through the news of the innovations and feats you create every day, you can inject vigour into the Party-wide, nationwide struggle to recover, and inspire people across the country who are making dynamic efforts in the face of difficulties, with enthusiasm.

Your enterprising spirit and courage will add vitality and dynamism to our society; your sweat and exploits will increase the wealth of our country and people; and your strength and courage will further accelerate the advance of our revolution.

You may experience many difficulties and many shortages in the more dangerous places. But you should never be a burden on the local people.

When you think about the inconvenience and agony suffered by the people in the affected areas ahead of your own difficulties, and

when you recollect the trust and expectations of the organizations and comrades that recommended you, you will be inspired with renewed courage and strength.

I believe that in this project you will, once again, powerfully demonstrate, through the collective devotion and heated competition for making innovations you display, your ideological and spiritual strength, organized nature and unity.

Your youthful vigour and burning enthusiasm that will sweep through the new theatre of creation, your indomitable courage and bold offensive with which you know no hesitation in the face of difficulties, and your impeccable sense of responsibility and pure conscience that deserve people's appreciation, will soon shine as our heroic youth's typical nature representing the times.

The feats performed during hard times are more valuable than those performed in ordinary days; and the structures erected on disaster-affected land are incomparably more honourable and laudable monumental ones than those built on even ground.

The youth league is a vanguard unit that I always trust and always want to put forward in socialist construction.

The heroic mettle of the Korean youth, which they display more highly the more complicated the situation is, represents a promise for the dynamic advance and eternal youth of our state.

The steel-strong combat power of the youth league is part of our nation's strength.

Because our Party is faithfully supported by its revolutionary and patriotic youth organizations and young people that have the ability to attain any goal without fail, however demanding, with the matchless bravery with which they tackle any trials and hardship, its dignity and prestige will last for ever as a banner of eternal

victory, and the lifeline of our revolution will be firmly carried forward for all ages.

Comrades,

Part of our motherland has suffered damage in a natural disaster.

There are people experiencing difficulties due to this disaster.

Let us advance courageously to fight it, without flinching.

We must rise up in the face of these difficulties and the aftermath of the disaster without fail by our own efforts.

We must overcome them at all costs.

You should demonstrate the dignity and mettle of the Korean youth at this difficult and challenging time.

My earnest request is this: Please take care of your health at the unfamiliar rehabilitation project sites and return home in good health with the pride of having performed great feats that will be etched in history, true to the expectations of your parents, siblings, teachers, organizations and comrades.

Young people, comrades,

Onward to victory!

**The Party Central Committee and
the Government of the Republic Will
Always Share the People's Pain
Caused by Disaster**

Speech to the Flood Victims in Uiju County,
North Phyongan Province
August 9, 2024

Dear inhabitants of the flood-stricken area,

How are you all?

I believe you must be experiencing a great deal of inconvenience and difficulty after leaving your homes to come to this evacuation area in the wake of the unexpected natural disaster.

Several days ago, after witnessing your plight on the spot, I ordered the Party Central Committee and the state to initiate an emergency response in the flood-stricken area. However, I have hardly been able to work at the thought of the flood victims.

Naturally, I have been receiving several reports a day, and these tell me that the victims' living conditions are fairly stable. Even so, not for a moment have I been free from worry.

I have come here to get a more detailed, on-the-spot understanding of the situation, to reassign certain tasks relating to the rehabilitation effort, and to have additional measures adopted at the national level to help you.

Several days have passed since the unexpected, terrible disaster condemned you to an abnormal existence, living in temporary

shelters. I have felt ill at ease ever since. In spite of my willingness to help you, I have failed to do so.

Although the whole country has turned out to render you assistance, I am still feeling anxious and impatient, as I have been unable to ease the inconvenience you are experiencing, living in damp tents and using poorly-equipped public facilities.

So, having seen that you are all in good health and showing little sign of the inconvenience you are experiencing, I feel greatly relieved and encouraged.

Our Party and government should have instilled strength and energy in you. Yet they are gaining strength from seeing you.

You have always trusted and relied on our Party and government. In these days of harsh trials, too, you are placing absolute and unconditional trust in them. For this, I feel great gratitude and pride.

I also realize more keenly what more I need to do, and how, for such laudable people who steadfastly follow our Party, devoting to it their pure loyalty and sense of obligation throughout their lives.

What I want to say first is that the Party Central Committee and the government of our Republic will always share the pain you have been caused by the disaster.

The people are the foundation and pillars of our Party and state and the starting point and focus of all their activities.

It is the mode of existence and activities inherent to our Party to draw closer to the people and share their experiences, the harder the times are.

At a time when the people are suffering a disaster like this, the place where the leadership of our state should find itself is the

disaster-stricken area and the site of the rehabilitation project.

In extending to you once again profound sympathy, I would like to take this opportunity to outline the immediate measures our Party and government will adopt to improve the flood victims' living conditions and repair the damage.

The Party and the state are now focusing all their efforts on the rehabilitation project here.

It is not only here that has suffered damage, but also some areas of Jagang and Ryanggang provinces in the Amnok River basin.

In order to complete this project in the shortest possible time and on the highest level, the Party and the government have decided to commit colossal human and material resources to it, even though this means readjusting some construction projects of national importance.

For us today, nothing is more important and urgent than to stabilize the living conditions of the flood victims and take permanent safety measures to prevent any recurrence of flooding.

As a preliminary to introducing these measures for fully restoring the flood victims' living conditions as soon as possible and eradicating the aftereffects of the natural disaster, a comprehensive and detailed investigation into the damage is ongoing, and the relevant sector is working hard to draw up a scientific plan for the recovery project.

A construction workforce over 130 000 strong, comprising service personnel of the People's Army and young people, is being assigned to the recovery work here in North Phyongan Province alone.

At the national level, a Central Committee for Repairing the Damage has been formed and has started work, to be followed by

a provincial on-site headquarters for the recovery work; and the transport of the materials needed has already been switched to the emergency system.

Our objective in displaying this daring spirit, organizing work at lightning speed and striving unfailingly, is to transform, beyond recognition, your dear island villages and the northwestern part of the country.

Comrades,

The whole country is fully committed to the recovery work. But given the extent of the damage, it will take two or three months at least to stabilize the flood victims' living conditions by building new houses and repairing the existing ones.

In the meantime, the Party and the government must give top priority to doing everything possible to improve their living conditions.

To this end, I have been holding daily consultations with leading officials of the relevant institutions to discuss the measures that need to be adopted.

It is essential that a well-regulated system be established for distributing newspapers and other publications and providing every family with a TV set and installing one in every public place so that the victims will be able to keep up-to-date with the Party's intentions, and for ensuring that they get decent meals.

The biggest bottleneck in the flood-stricken areas is the living and studying conditions for the children and students.

Currently, some leading officials within our government, due to a lack of experience and qualifications, are focusing so intently on the recovery effort that they are neglecting the education of and care for the children and students.

Needless to say, living in a tent or someone else's house until the completion of the recovery work will cause the children considerable inconvenience; in particular, their education will be severely impacted.

Also, the steps for providing health care are not going beyond supplying medicines, and no specific, realistic plan has yet been drawn up for offering medical services.

With regard to this, I criticized the officials concerned at yesterday's consultative meeting of the relevant departments of the Party Central Committee.

So, we are going to put in place an emergency system whereby, during the recovery work, all the affected children and students in North Phyongan, Jagang and Ryanggang provinces will come and stay in Pyongyang, where they will be provided with a safe and comfortable environment for their care and education, entirely at state expense.

The nursing, edification and education of the children and students are the most important of all state affairs, and must never be abandoned even if the sky were to fall in.

So, the state will take full responsibility for this while the rehabilitation project is ongoing.

Moreover, the state will provide care in Pyongyang for the elderly and sick, honoured disabled ex-soldiers and nursing mothers until new houses are built for them in the flood-stricken areas.

According to an estimate, among the flood victims' families there are 2 198 preschoolers, 4 384 students, 4 524 elderly, 265 sick people and honoured disabled ex-soldiers, and 4 096 nursing mothers.

Therefore, the number of flood victims who will be brought to

Pyongyang will total over 15 400.

In order to provide this state emergency assistance, the Party Central Committee will organize a command team and ensure that the evacuees are provided with services in Pyongyang at the April 25 Hostel and the military parade training base.

It will provide temporary learning spaces for the children and students and organize interim mobile educational teams made up of teachers from primary and middle schools and preschool educational institutions in Pyongyang. They will provide the children and students with full-time education, once their vacation is over.

It will also ensure that adequate staple and subsidiary foods, daily necessities and medicines are supplied, and that mobile service and medical teams are formed, comprising able personnel from key service units and hospitals in Pyongyang. This will guarantee that all efforts are directed to ensuring that the living conditions provided for the flood victims accord with the state's special measures.

Some mothers may be reluctant to be separated from their little children for several months, and some individuals may be unwilling to leave for some reasons, I think.

As their reasons may be personal, I will leave it up to them.

However, we are organizing this with the intention of doing everything possible to help the flood victims suffering in the unfamiliar areas and minimize their inconvenience. So, I think you can have confidence in me.

As it is the top state priority, the Party and the government will take full responsibility for the health and living conditions of the flood victims who come to Pyongyang, caring for them with

utmost sincerity as their parents and children would do, and will make special and devoted efforts so that none of them feels in the slightest bit dismayed.

Another problem facing the families evacuated from the rehabilitation area is that they have no proper place to keep any of the family property they managed to salvage from the water.

Although they are showing no signs of it, the flood victims may be feeling extremely anxious.

So, for the convenience of the families that have been evacuated while new houses are being built for them, we should provide them with a place where they can keep their household belongings safely.

This will also be good for the families who are being looked after and cared for in Pyongyang.

Comrades,

We need to impress on our minds once again that the current rehabilitation project is not simply an undertaking for ourselves, but also a serious struggle against the enemy.

The enemy is now taking advantage of the fact that we have suffered damage to continue its foolish attempts to tarnish the image of our state.

It is important to inform Party organizations and working people's organizations at all levels, various educational networks and all the people of these facts, so that they have a correct understanding of the ROK scum bordering us.

The ROK's despicable media are desperately slandering all the socialist benefits and measures adopted by our Party and government for the flood victims, as well as the communist traits displayed throughout society, and claiming they are a means of achieving some sort of internal unity and a type of show. Moreover, in their

frantic manoeuvres to slander our government and system, they are also inventing such lies as the number of missing persons in the affected areas exceeds 1 000, and that its intelligence authorities have found that several helicopters crashed during rescue missions.

Worse still, they are spreading the baseless rumour that the V-day celebrations in Pyongyang on the 27th of last month were held while people were losing their lives in the flood-hit areas.

The rumour is widespread in the ROK society that its government is always late in responding to the various, everyday incidents that occur there, and because of this they are weaving this absurd sophistry that slanders and slights us in an attempt to hoodwink their citizens and stir up world public sentiment.

When I visited the helicopter unit that rescued you, I gave a full account of the rescue operation. This included the crash-landing by one helicopter during the operation. I also expressed my relief that there had been no casualties.

The enemy even went so far as to say that I was reacting to the report fabricated by their media, because the casualties had been heavy and I wanted to cover this fact up.

What is the purpose of their persistent attempts to describe you, who are safe and sound, as missing or dead? There can be no argument.

It is a smear campaign and a grave provocation against our state, as well as an insult to you.

I have good reason and feel it necessary to say this about the media of that dirty, despicable country.

There is no need for us to produce separate information materials. The facts are clear and true, and the information materials are good enough to bring home to our people how filthy

the enemy clan is, how old-fashioned and outdated is their way of fabricating a political smear campaign to tarnish the image of our state, what their ulterior motives are, and why we call them the enemy and scum.

No other country in the world has such media which do nothing but invent groundless and exaggerated lies.

We must be clearly aware that the enemy is as we see them now.

The whole country can, by referring to the actual facts, have a correct understanding of the enemy and cultivate appropriate feelings against them.

Our enemy will never change.

The current situation helps us to see the enemy's true colours, and we should make it an opportunity to form a proper attitude towards them.

Present here today are leading officials of Party organizations and government organs in North Phyongan Province, as well as officials in Uiju County.

I would like to take this opportunity to dwell on the tasks facing the regional Party organizations and government organs in stabilizing the living conditions of the flood victims and repairing the damage in the disaster-stricken areas.

The masters of the affected areas should play their proper role in the effort to stabilize the living conditions of the flood victims as quickly as possible.

As you have seen for yourselves, many of the flood victims in various areas, including North Phyongan and Jagang provinces, are living outdoors in the intense heat and sultry weather.

Of course, we built houses for the people without fail in the past however many of them were destroyed, and now the flood

victims in the affected areas are living in hope, placing their trust in our Party.

Even so, the local Party organizations and government organs should never make light of the fact that there are people who have been left homeless and are living in tents.

They should ensure that supplies of food, non-staple foodstuffs and fuel, which are indispensable for their survival, are provided and never run out, and should adopt strong measures for providing them with daily necessities.

The provinces, cities and counties should improve the flood victims' living conditions by providing them in a responsible manner with the food and other materials they need from the reserves, and promptly supplying them with state relief materials.

They should supply the flood victims with a whole range of daily necessities, from bedding and sanitation products to such small articles as scissors, needles and thread.

They should direct close attention to the supply of drinking water.

Water is essential for people's survival, and drinking water is badly needed in the flood-hit areas, where it is in short supply owing to the pollution caused by the flood damage.

Party organizations and government organs in the relevant areas should abandon their short-term approach, and take effective steps for supplying sufficient drinking water to places where the flood victims are living.

Public health and epidemic prevention are the most vulnerable sectors in the affected areas.

Wherever the flood victims have been evacuated to, it is necessary, based on their numbers, to install sufficient bathrooms,

public toilets, rubbish dumps and drains, in line with hygiene standards, and effectively maintain them so as to eliminate any possible source of disease.

The regional Party organizations and government organs should commit all the available medical resources in their areas to caring for the victims' health in a responsible manner, supply them with as much Koryo and other medicines as possible, and conduct an intensive epidemic prevention campaign.

They should work proactively to organize and carry out rehabilitation aimed at restoring production and life in the flood-hit areas to normal.

They should conduct strict safety tests on the damaged houses and public buildings, and launch the rehabilitation project promptly, based on the findings.

A key factor in this is to check such details as whether the buildings that were submerged have suffered any structural changes and whether their foundations are strong enough. Also, thorough measures should be adopted to prevent secondary damage due to the collapse of those buildings.

Another important factor is to distinguish what needs to be built again from scratch from what is in need of repair. A scientific order of priority and plans for the recovery work should be adopted, and priority should be given to the construction and repair of houses so that the flood victims can move into them as soon as possible.

In addition, socio-economic life in the affected areas should be put back on a normal track at the earliest possible date. This should be done by pushing forward vigorously with the restoration of the damaged public buildings and industrial facilities, including schools, kindergartens, hospitals, factories and enterprises.

The design and construction of embankments in the affected areas should be done in a scientific way, based on a comprehensive and detailed survey of the local geographical conditions and shores. It is particularly important in designing the embankments to make an accurate estimate of the conditions at the time of the highest water level and, wherever necessary, to install flood-prevention structures.

As things stand at present, our regions are unilaterally vulnerable to rising levels of water in the Amnok River. On this occasion, we should decisively remove this chronic vulnerability, and thus eliminate, once and for all, the risk of floods wreaking havoc on Uiju County and the city of Sinuiju on the lower reaches of the river.

The regional Party organizations and government organs should adopt prompt measures for restoring the major infrastructure in the affected areas, such as roads, railways, communications and power grids.

Ensuring the free flow of traffic is a pressing task, since it is a prerequisite for transporting manpower, equipment and materials to the recovery sites and for the free economic activities of residents. So, the roads and railways must be opened as a matter of urgency in cooperation with the People's Army units that have been seconded to the rehabilitation project.

Efforts should also be focused on restoring communications and the power grids to meet the needs of the local residents and the rehabilitation project for communication and electricity at the earliest possible date.

The regional Party organizations and government organs should work in a responsible manner to repair the damage to the

agricultural sector.

Many hectares of crop fields were inundated. The regional Party organizations and government organs should not give up or feel disheartened, but redouble their efforts to prevent the damage spreading.

They should learn the lesson that the key aspect of the damage was that most of the crop fields were submerged. They should identify the weak spots in the dams, river embankments and waterways, and take thorough and immediate steps for repairing and reinforcing them, while adopting scientific and technological measures for improving the growth of the crops in the affected fields.

Based on a detailed analysis, the capacity of the drainage pumping stations should be doubled in order to keep the farmland from being damaged by any possible future floods, and a solid scientific and technical guarantee should be provided for them to operate at full capacity on a regular basis.

The regional Party organizations and government organs should focus on political work aimed at instilling confidence in the junior officials at farms and the other farmers and mobilizing them, and should give effective and responsible guidance over the work to repair the crop damage.

They should also give strong impetus to restoring the arable land that has been inundated or washed away.

Comrades,

We are currently facing a crucial challenge—preventing disasters. It is no less important and much more serious and urgent than the huge rehabilitation project.

Recently, the extent of the damage caused by weather disasters

has been increasing worldwide year by year. The fact is no part of our country is absolutely safe and not susceptible to flooding and typhoons.

However, some officials are neglecting disaster prevention work and instead arguing about their regional characteristics or simply browsing through meteorological records. This is highly dangerous, unpardonable behaviour which is tantamount to gambling with people's safety.

Regional Party organizations and government organs should stake their future development on preventing the recurrence of damage by weather disasters, remaining on the alert and redoubling their efforts to preclude any more disastrous consequences.

For the present, they should set up a prompt, well-knit weather forecasting system and establish discipline, order and a system whereby all the sectors and units in their respective regions respond effectively to any weather disaster. In this way, if heavy rains and typhoons are expected, they can protect themselves.

Damage caused by the recent flooding highlighted how important it is in preventing disasters to ensure close contact and cooperation among various sectors and regions.

In case of an emergency, regions should maintain close contact, inform one another promptly of what elements are at risk, and actively regulate and adjust their responses. In particular, when heavy rain or flooding is imminent, all the units responsible for maintaining power stations and reservoir dams should obey to the letter the directives from the central organ that is in charge of the unified system for water control.

It is important for the state, by setting up a new water control system and creating a specialized institution, to establish an

integrated system for enforcing, adjusting and implementing a uniform water control policy. This will tackle various tasks facing the regions, ranging from supplying drinking water to responding to flooding, drought and other disasters.

The recent flood damage has taught us that the most pressing task facing us is to ensure that the organs in charge of maintaining the dams enhance their role and that they establish integrated coordination and put it on a scientific footing quickly.

However, the existing disaster prevention organs are lame-duck entities that collect statistics rather than fulfill their assignments.

This offers a glimpse of how irresponsible our officials' work style is. Such disaster prevention organs, however many they may be, if they stick to their stereotypical way of thinking and formalistic work methods, will bring no benefit to the state.

It would be a good idea to study the issues of setting a flood warning period during the rainy season, ensuring unified and coordinated management of the sectoral and regional units in charge of water control, and putting a flood response system in place.

Along with this, an integrated and more scientific flood forecast system should be established.

As I have stressed before, any laxity demonstrated by failing to consider the worst possible outcome in construction is bound to invite disaster.

We should build new, excellent homes in locations that are safe from disaster and adopt perfect measures for disaster prevention, so that they will last for the next 50 to 100 years.

To this end, appropriate construction sites should be identified, with a safety assessment as the major criterion. Also, a proper plan for the distribution and layout of houses should be drawn up

to provide every convenience for the residents and satisfy their demands. And the durability of the houses should be ensured by increasing the quantity of building materials used for each one and encouraging the builders to enhance their sense of responsibility.

No less important than guaranteeing high speed and good quality in the construction of houses is ensuring that they are modern, in line with our people's increased level of civilization.

Houses, in their design and construction, should have non-repetitive, diverse and unique styles that meet modern tastes and preserve the characteristic features of the given region and village.

Here I want to make a point of emphasizing that there should be no misguided practice of demolishing existing houses and building new ones on the same site in a perfunctory manner, without any detailed calculation.

It is also important to give residents regular education on coping with disasters.

We should work effectively to heighten their consciousness in this regard. We should define, on the basis of a detailed survey and confirmation, sites where they can take shelter in the case of an emergency, and draw up guidelines for evacuating them. And we should give strong impetus to securing the essential means of conducting rescue for deployment in various emergency situations.

Every region should conduct a comprehensive review and investigation of its capability for preventing natural disasters, identify the weak points and adopt timely measures for shoring them up. Also, in anticipation of the worst-case scenario caused by torrential rain, flooding, typhoons and tidal waves, it should

identify and eradicate the danger spots, while paying due attention to ensuring effective afforestation and water conservation.

Comrades,

The enormous undertaking for repairing the damage, which represents a huge step in alleviating the people's pain, providing them with improved welfare and transforming the regions, imposes a particularly high demand on the officials of local Party and government organs.

All officials should display the spirit of sincerely and devotedly assisting the people in the affected areas and sharing joy and sorrow with them.

Respect for and devoted service to the people is the inherent duty and obligation of our officials, and when the people suffer hardship, they should be especially faithful to their duty.

In particular, all Party officials should go deep among the masses in order to strengthen their ties with them and, in the course of doing so, become fused into a harmonious whole with them and inspire them in the rehabilitation project.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the need to prevent any deviation in rendering assistance to the people in the affected areas.

Every part of the country, as well as the Party Central Committee, the Cabinet, ministries and national agencies, is now assisting the flood victims.

Assistance work must be conducted strictly on the principle of being voluntary, and never coercive.

In the past, when such natural disasters as flooding occurred, institutions, enterprises and working people's organizations were guilty of such practices as pointing out the variety and

quantity of relief supplies they wanted to collect, while cadres, prompted by the desire for personal glory, acted subjectively in giving assignments for assistance work, gathering materials and sending them.

We must not get our people to send aid by imposing a burden on them on the pretext that they do not complain or that they accept that it is their obligation to help the residents in the affected areas.

Such assistance is worse than offering nothing at all.

We need to intensify our grasp and guidance over the whole society so as to ensure that assistance work for the people in the affected areas is done on the principle of being voluntary and strictly in accordance with each person's willingness. Then this work will become a process in which our society's great trait of sharing pain and sorrow and helping and leading one another forward is genuinely manifested, not only in name, but also in reality.

At the same time, we need to take control of and register aid funds and materials in a unified way and distribute and supply them in a fair and rational manner so that they are used effectively for stabilizing the living conditions of the flood victims and for damage repair. At the same time, we should impose strict controls to prevent the appearance of such undesirable practices as fame-seeking, misappropriation and fraud.

Many countries and international organizations are currently expressing their willingness to provide us with humanitarian assistance.

I thank them.

However, what we stress primarily in all the domains and processes of state affairs is the approach of addressing problems

by relying on the firm trust in the people and entirely on our own efforts.

In the current rehabilitation project, the Party Central Committee and the government are relying also on the patriotic enthusiasm and valour of our people and the potential of our state.

Just as we have always done, we will value our confidence in our own strength above all else, solve every problem by enlisting the strength and wisdom of the people, and continue to steadily expand and increase our state power in such a way as to shape our future by our own strength and efforts.

As all our national efforts are concentrated on the rehabilitation project and all the planned work is being advanced smoothly under the unified and powerful guidance of our government, we will remain consistent to this principle.

Comrades,

Nationwide focus and all-people mobilization—these offer us a good chance of sure victory in recovering from the disaster.

In order to accomplish our current tasks—those historic tasks on which we have decided and which we have shouldered by ourselves for the sake of our beloved people and our future—the Party and the government are prepared to brave any challenges and live up to the people’s trust with their faithful service and excellent results.

We will serve the people faithfully.

And we will always be with you.

Dear inhabitants of Uiju County and the city of Sinuiju,

Dear inhabitants of the affected areas in Jagang and Ryanggang provinces,

Please inform us frankly through the relevant Party

organizations at any time, if you feel any inconvenience or difficulty.

Please wait for the day when you will lead a new life in your own, more splendid living place.

And I wish you good health free from illness.

Let all of us pool our strength and so overcome the present crisis and rise again.

Long live our great people!

Speech Welcoming the People Arriving in the Capital City of Pyongyang from the Flood-hit Areas

August 15, 2024

Dear residents of North Phyongan, Jagang and Ryanggang provinces,

Respected residents of several other regions,

How are you?

First of all, I would like to express my thanks to you for trusting in and following the measures adopted by the Party and government.

It must have cost you a great deal of trouble to come all the way here.

It is my pleasure to be offering you a hearty welcome to Pyongyang.

And you, students, my dear children,

I welcome you here.

It is a great relief to me that decent hostels can be made available to the elderly, nursing mothers, honoured disabled ex-soldiers and children who have been experiencing hardship in the flood-hit areas along the border and in the northern inland region of the country.

The April 25 Hostel and the base for military parade training are fully ready to receive you with all sincerity and provide you with every convenience.

We will make further efforts to ensure that you have comfortable living conditions.

We will also pay due attention to drawing up schedules so that you can spend a pleasant, memorable time at the tourist attractions and leisure facilities in the capital city.

The April 25 Hostel, where you will stay starting from today, has been used to accommodate the delegates to important national meetings. And the base for military parade training is specially furnished to provide the conditions and environment the participating service personnel need.

Several national events are already scheduled for the latter half of this year. But we have decided to set aside these facilities for the exclusive use of the people from the flood-hit areas.

I hope you will feel at home here, and enjoy yourselves without any worries.

Some of you may be physically unable to move freely, and others may experience inconvenience that is beyond their physical endurance. We will do our best to ensure that you spend a happy time, doing what you want to do. In doing so, our overriding criterion will be meticulous attention to your health and comfort.

This is an impressive and happy day.

Our Party and government are especially proud of such days.

You are justifiably entitled to such a grand welcome and genuine hospitality. Our Party and government are obliged to take full responsibility for the life and health of all the people within the territory of our Republic.

This is a mandatory obligation and the top priority for our Party and our state.

All of you present here, as precious members of our society, have

remained faithful to our Party all your life, working with devotion for the prosperity and development of our state. Even when you were left homeless in the aftermath of an unexpected disaster, you treasured your trust in our Party more than your personal property or houses that had been lost, and your confidence in it remains fundamentally unchanged.

In view of the important role you are playing in actively supporting our Party and state, and considering your position as future buttresses of the country, you justly deserve the best possible hospitality and services.

I believe that this time, while staying in Pyongyang, you will spend a pleasant and memorable time, thanks to the utmost sincerity of the citizens of Pyongyang and their tender care.

The citizens of Pyongyang have shown heartfelt sincerity and tender solicitude towards the affected people by joining our Party and government in the initiative to eliminate their suffering as quickly as possible. I have been moved by the citizens' noble spirit.

At this moment, large numbers of Party members and young people from the capital city are working hard to restore the flood-hit areas, and a steady stream of relief supplies from Pyongyang is making its way there.

It is heartbreaking that some parts of the country have been damaged and the people there have experienced such mental anguish owing to the unexpected natural disaster. But in the face of the pain and trials, our grand socialist family has rallied more closely and united more firmly with ennobling sentiments.

And our confidence that today's disaster will become a watershed for transforming regions has become more unwavering, based on

this unity of the whole society.

We will transform the regions.

This is our ideal, and we are capable of turning it into reality.

The natural disaster was a stumbling block on our advance. But in such trials we have found another driving force for defending our ideal and bringing it into full bloom.

By dint of this force, we will renovate your home villages, workplaces and schools, which are precious parts of our country, and make them more beautiful and wonderful.

This time we are not going to confine ourselves to simply rebuilding the affected areas. Rather, we will turn them into a model and textbook for urbanizing and modernizing regions and making them more civilized.

Soon the places destroyed by the flooding and landslides will have been transformed and become richer beyond recognition.

Therefore, all of you, please have a good, happy and worry-free time here.

I hope that the officials and employees of the April 25 Hostel and the base for military parade training, as well as the others concerned, will work hard so that these disaster victims are in a better condition than before when they return to their dear native places that will have been transformed beyond recognition.

I entrust the elderly people, mothers and children to the members of the mobile education teams in charge of the teaching and edification of the children, and to the members of the mobile medical teams who are responsible for patient treatment and elderly care. I am of the firm belief that these mobile team members will show utmost sincerity and selfless devotion.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to extend my

thanks once again to you for your invariable trust in and support for our Party.

Dear citizens,

Comrades,

The trust placed in us by our people—this is our biggest and most valuable asset which bears no comparison to any material wealth.

I reaffirm that we are ready to go through thick and thin to prove ourselves worthy of the great trust shown by our people, and that we will work with devotion for the good of our great people, and faithfully serve them.

Today it is a significant holiday marking the liberation of our country.

I hope that the elderly, women and all others from the flood-hit areas will enjoy this holiday happily and have an unforgettable and significant time while staying in the capital city of their beloved motherland.

Thank you.

KIM JONG UN

**LET US MAKE SELFLESS,
DEVOTED EFFORTS FOR
THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE**

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