

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM JONG UN

**CONGRATULATORY SPEECH
AT THE COMMISSIONING
CEREMONY FOR THE
DESTROYER *CHOE HYON***

June 23, 2026

**Foreign Languages Publishing House
DPR Korea
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Workers of the Nampho Shipyard, and scientists, technicians and officials in the shipbuilding and defence industry sectors,

Officers and other sailors of the destroyer *Choe Hyon*, who will record the first page of a glorious new log in the history of our Navy,

All commanders, officers and other sailors of the Navy of the Korean People's Army,

Comrades,

This is a highly emotional day, the significance of which cannot be fully described in a hundred, even a thousand, words.

This destroyer, a powerful naval combat system of which we are immensely proud, is finally being commissioned into the Navy. A new chapter is being written in the history of the defence of the sacred maritime sovereignty and airspace of Korea.

At this moment, when we are realizing the desire of all the generations of our Navy for a most powerful warship and of the entire population for everything on this beautiful, precious land to be defended at all costs, I would like, first of all, to extend warm greetings and gratitude once again to the workers of the Nampho

Shipyard and the talented personnel and officials in the shipbuilding and defence industry sectors who have worked day and night with devotion and ardent patriotism.

Transforming our Navy, which we are building up with an ardent desire and aspiration to translate design into reality, can never be plain sailing, but we are now doing it at an exponential speed.

Throughout the whole course of constructing and testing this destroyer, the first of its kind in the history of our Navy and our armed forces, we have confirmed that it is equipped with the most perfect, complex operational and combat capability.

We can feel due pride in the fact that the *Choe Hyon* is a warship that can creditably perform its operational mission in any waters.

From the first step, we planned and started building this large, completely new warship by our own efforts and equipping it with our own weapons systems. As a result, we could apply unparalleled technology and power to this ship and accelerate its construction at an incredible speed.

We can now affirm that there is no insurmountable technological barrier for us in constructing and launching destroyers and cruisers of different classes

that embody our unique principles and original concept of building a navy.

Furthermore, we have laid solid foundations for our shipbuilding industry, all the elements of which are self-supporting and conform to the actual situation. We have also acquired a thorough understanding of the methodology for ensuring maximum military and economic efficiency in operating a vessel.

We are now switching over to the stage of building various surface and underwater combat systems and deploying them without restriction offshore and further out to sea.

These huge projects have been transformed into a reality that is beyond our imagination. This success represents the coming together of the wisdom, techniques and united efforts of all the scientists, technicians, workers and officials in the shipbuilding and defence industry sectors.

Comrades,

In our era, when everything is undergoing change, we are witnessing the fastest-ever and most obvious transformation of the Navy.

In less than three years since we declared that we would transform the Navy without fail, our Navy has put an end to over 70 years of stagnation.

Looking back on the day of that declaration, it is no exaggeration to say that the modernization of our Navy started virtually from scratch.

In terms of military hardware, the Navy was the weakest of all the services of our armed forces.

It can be said that our seas have so far been safeguarded thanks solely to the death-defying defensive spirit and matchless courage of our sailors.

Now, however, things are very different.

Our Navy's combat capability is set to grow to be admirable beyond imagination.

Today's ceremony for transferring this warship constitutes an event that will help to measure the speed of our Navy's transformation.

Our brave Navy has displayed a matchless spirit in fighting and striking terror into a piratical enemy who, taking advantage of their superiority at sea, that is, their superior warships, has been resorting to incessant provocative moves. I am feeling truly delighted to have equipped our Navy with such a sophisticated warship.

Today, June 23, 2026, the first page is being written in a new chapter of our Navy's history of safeguarding the sacred maritime sovereignty of our state on the strength of invincible warships.

In what may be called an anxiety that comes of its

own accord, I am now worried that we have no base to moor such large warships as this one.

This is certainly a happy cause of anxiety.

In the past there has been no need for such a base, I dare say.

Now, however, it poses itself as an urgent, essential task to build modern naval bases.

This is not as a result of attaining a greater area of land or sea.

Nor is it because the sea off our country is shallower than it was.

It is simply because we have got greater ambition.

This is what has changed about us.

This compelling requirement is clear proof that our ideals are now at a higher level.

At yesterday's Second Plenary Meeting of the Ninth Party Central Committee, we discussed and reached a decision on building new bases for our naval fleets.

When we say our Navy is changing, we do not simply mean that its vessels are becoming larger or that their equipment is getting more technologically advanced.

The most important change and the most significant progress worth mentioning is that it has assumed a different position, a different mission and a different

area of waters to cover, and accordingly, it will achieve a different result.

It is clearly a thing of the past when our Navy existed solely as a force for defending the sea off our coast.

With the programme of equipping it with nuclear weapons unerringly following its planned course, our Navy is rising into a full-fledged service equipped with strategic means.

Acquiring a further unmistakable, powerful and reliable nuclear war deterrent is a strategic course of crucial importance that will make it possible to keep the nuclear force of our state ready for multifaceted and efficient operation, and to hold the initiative in military activities for maritime defence and war deterrence.

The Navy of the Korean People's Army now has the power to send its warships to any waters it chooses. It has been assigned the mission of patrolling the waters where enemy countries have deployed their military assets and bases, for preemptive clearing if necessary.

It is now obvious that any moves of aggression, made either on or under the sea, that endanger the security of our state will end in greater victories by our fleets.

Comrades,

The waves raised by this destroyer will create the first storm putting an end to a history stained with mistaken practices; our enemies, struck with terrible fear and anxiety, will see for themselves the performance and might of this warship.

Following the *Choe Hyon*, we will soon be commissioning the destroyer *Kang Kon*. After that we will launch 10 000-ton strategic warships one after another.

Our warships, which will grow in number and patrolling range, will reliably defend the maritime sovereignty of our state and bring about a change in the military balance in the region.

Only in this way can we defend more firmly the security of our state, and the present and future of this country.

Our Navy, in entering a new phase in its development, is at the starting point of a new historic mission.

As a country deploying the most sensitive strategic assets in the most important waters, we will demonstrate our principled and responsible resolve to defend the sovereignty of our Republic, the security environment in Northeast Asia and global peace, and will make a

renewed and greater contribution to this end.

Comrades,

The speed of the Navy's transformation and development represents the speed of our growing national strength, and the position of the state in the oceans defines its might, I think.

We must have as many such superior warships as this destroyer as we need, not just a few symbolic ones.

Having pushed our way to this day with the courageous spirit of facing up to challenges, we should continuously go all out in implementing these historic and crucial tasks so as to raise the operational capability of our Navy to the strategic level at the earliest date.

In the new five-year plan period, we should fully implement all the plans for building up our naval capability; every year we should build two surface ships, whose class is higher than the *Choe Hyon*, including a 10 000-ton cruiser. And we should build escort and special purpose ships, and develop and produce underwater weapons systems.

It is encouraging that our warship-building industry is developing rapidly, but what is even more pleasing is that the consciousness of the people is changing at the sight of this reality and with the pride they take

from their own strength.

Our skilled research group and the Juche-based warship-building industry have become consolidated in the course of pioneering the revolution in the warship-building industry and more resourceful in the course of turning the seemingly impossible into a miracle. They will renew the symbols of our naval forces every year.

The composition of the weapons systems of the warships to be built in the future will continue to improve so that they conform, in military aspects, to the actual requirements and their development.

As I have mentioned before, we should step up the building of large and multi-functional naval bases and push ahead with the work of building modern port cities that can serve as centres of naval operations command and culture.

Comrades,

We are at the helm with regard to our strength and being the eternal victor.

We will surely emerge as a defence leader capable of fully demonstrating its national strength, even on an ocean thousands of miles away.

We must not mark time for even a moment on the journey we have started, but make greater and more vigorous strides.

Comrade officers and other sailors of the
Choe Hyon,

Your motherland, Korea, has given you a spear and shield permeated with its strength and great ambition.

Let us advance vigorously, cheerfully and bravely along the new sea route of defence opened up by the new era for the security and glory of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and for the dignity and honour of the Navy of the Korean People's Army.

Comrades,

I propose another warm round of applause in congratulation of this decisive moment in the history of our Navy.

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Published by Foreign Languages Publishing House
DPR Korea

Issued in September 2026

No. 2681364



