

## GREAT MAN OF THE CENTURY

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Being the keynote address of Comrade Damian Uzoma Ogbonna, Co-Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the International Festival in Praise of the Great Persons of Mt. Paektu, delivered at the E-Seminar to praise the Great Persons of Mt. Paektu, holding in Spain from 20th June to 9th July 2019, on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the demise of His Excellency President **KIM IL SUNG**.

Dear friends,

It is a pleasure to have an international e-seminar with the subject of the “**Great Man of the Century**” under the joint auspices of the Organizing Committee of the International Festival in Praise of the Great Persons of Mt. Paektu and the Korean Friendship Association headquartered in Spain on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the demise of President **Kim Il Sung** (July 8, 1994).

First of all, I would like to pay high respects to President **Kim Il Sung** who performed immortal exploits for the cause of global independence reflecting the unanimous will of all the participants in the seminar and the progressive people of the world.

At the same time, I express my gratitude to all those from various countries who made sincere contribution to the success of the e-seminar.

My dear friends,

There are many great men recorded in the human history. In particular, many unprecedented changes in the life of mankind and world politics in the 20<sup>th</sup> century are characteristic of their salient activities.

Among them President **Kim Il Sung** was the greatest in view of the duration of leadership, scope of the achievement and personalities. He was born in a poor thatched house of Korea on April 15, 1912 in

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the early period of the Japanese-style colonial rule (1905-1945) and had to go through all the sufferings of the national tribulations at the time.

His spirit of patriotism and aspiration was great. When a nationwide uprising against the colonial rule erupted in March 1, 1919, he took part in the ranks of the struggle at the age of seven. When he was fourteen, he organized the “Down-with-Imperialism Union” with an aim of defeating all the imperialists in the world as well as Japanese imperialism.

From then on, Comrade **Kim Il Sung** devoted all his efforts for more than 60 years to the liberation of the oppressed working people and, in so doing, he made outstanding exploits that will go down in posterity.

As is well known, the greatest of his exploits is the creation of the Juche idea, a great guiding principle for the new era of independence.

The Juche idea signifies, in a word, that the masses of the people are the masters of the revolution and construction and they have the strength to propel it. In other words, the master of one’s own destiny is none other than himself or herself and that he or she has the capability to work out his or her own destiny.

The Juche idea worked a complete change in the ideologies and ways of life of hundreds of millions of people worldwide who, hitherto, had accepted subordination and colonization as their fate. The Juche idea roused them up to the struggle against the domination of imperialism, colonialism and all sorts of inequalities.

The Juche idea enjoys absolute approval and acceptance from the world progressive people beyond the differences of political views. We believe in its truthfulness, universality and vitality. Particularly so, the principles of independence in politics, self-supporting in the economy and self-defense in

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guarding the nation are considered to be the firm guidelines in the building of an independent and sovereign state.

President **Kim Il Sung** put forth the Songun idea based on the immortal Juche idea and applied it in practice.

He waged a hard but heroic armed struggle for 15 years to oppose a million Kwandong army of fascist Japan, which ultimately led to liberation of Korea.

Comrade **Kim Il Sung** subdued the numerical, military and technological superiority of the enemy with original military strategies, tactics and rare art of command in the Korean war (1950-1953) against two millions of colossal forces including the US troops, south Korean army and 15 other vassal countries and all the up-to-date military equipment under the cloak of the “United Nations forces” to win victory.

Clark, who signed the Korean Armistice Agreement in the capacity of the commander of the US Far Eastern forces and at the same time commander of the “UN forces” confessed about the defeat of the US and said later “the success of the north Korean army can be said to be owed to the talented command of General **Kim Il Sung**.”

To think of Korea, one is reminded of the word *Chollima* (a legendary horse which covers a thousand miles in a leap). This single word implies the outstanding exploits of President **Kim Il Sung** who turned Korea from a backward agricultural country to a powerful socialist industrial state.

The national economy of Korea had been reduced to ashes during the Korean war. At the time the United States stated openly that it would take a hundred years if Korea is to recover itself. However, President **Kim Il Sung** put forward the unique policy of developing the heavy industry in tandem with the light industry and agriculture and, in so doing, led the

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people to demonstrate the mettle of Koreans in the rehabilitation and construction era.

In commencing the industrialization of Korea, following the hard rehabilitation and construction over three years, President **Kim Il Sung** expanded steel works using the only blooming mill in the country as at then and encouraged them to produce ten thousand more tons of steel. In response to his appeal, the mill turned out 120,000 tons of rolled steel even though their rated capacity was 60,000 tons. This was the start of the *Chollima* movement.

In the second year of this movement (1958), tractors, lorries, excavators, bulldozers and other large-size machinery were manufactured and 20,000 flats were built with the materials and fund for 7,000 flats using the new method of prefabrication.

Korea made a wonder by advancing without cease in *Chollima* speed; that is, they completed the industrialization within a short span of 14 years where it had taken others 50, 100 or more years to accomplish similar levels of industrialization.

What is noteworthy is that Korea built an independent national economy to withstand any political and economic fluctuations of the world by relying on its own raw materials, fuel and resources.

Thanks to the wise leadership and benevolent policies of President **Kim Il Sung** the DPR Korea is known by many other names beside the prime name of *Chollima* Korea. DPR Korea is also called a country of longevity (implying the universal free medical care system, which began from January 1953 during the Korean war), a tax-free country (which began from April 1974) and a country of learning.

President **Kim Il Sung** initiated fair and just policies for the reunification of Korea, deeply resenting the division of the country by

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foreign forces. The three principles of national reunification were based on (1) independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, (2) the proposal of founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo, and (3) the 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation. These three principles became the three charters of the country's reunification cause.

President **Kim Il Sung** desired global independence and the peace and prosperity of all mankind, beyond just a single country or nation.

It is widely known that he gave active support to the former USSR and China during the anti-Japanese war and the civil war in China. He also rendered material and spiritual assistance to the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America in their struggle for national liberation and defense of their sovereignty, including Viet Nam, Cuba and Syria since 1960s.

I would like to make a special emphasis on his sincere assistance to the newly independent countries in their building of a new society. In the middle and later half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, many newly-born independent countries found the way of development of their countries through the reality of Korea and desired to learn from the experiences of Korea and even requested economic assistance.

President **Kim Il Sung** gave them enormous help in his belief that the fledgling new countries, which had just been liberated from colonial subjugation would again be subordinated by the imperialists, this time economically, if nothing was done to help them. So, he led the Korean nation to provide assistance to these newly liberated countries in spite of the difficulties of the time.

He imparted the experiences of Korea to them step by step, believing that good experiences can be adjusted to suit their actual conditions. This was the manner of his sincerity and modesty. It is rare in all times and places

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to see a great man of such talent, ideological theories, unusual leadership art and noble virtues as his.

All the people respected and admired him beyond any differences in nationalities, ideas and political views.

It is on record that the former US president Jimmy Carter, following his conversation with President **Kim Il Sung**, stated that President **Kim Il Sung** is greater than the totality of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln, the founding fathers of the United States.

The great exploits made by President **Kim Il Sung** for the Korean revolution and the cause of the global independence will live on, not only in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but throughout the history of mankind.

When the world fell into a critical political turmoil at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century before and after the demise of President **Kim Il Sung**, leader **Kim Jong Il** saved the cause of socialism and anti-imperialism and independence from the danger of frustration and led it to a new upsurge.

He defeated the acts of isolation, stifling and provocations of war on the part of the allied imperialist forces by using Songun politics; a unique socialist political ideology, to defend the socialist system in Korea and turned the country's military might to an invincible one.

The high-handedness of the US and the West feeling free to make military attacks to the sovereign states like Iraq and Yugoslavia were feeble in the face of the Songun politics of Korea.

To cope up with the vicious sanctions of the hostile forces against Korea and continued natural calamities, leader **Kim Jong Il** called the Korean people to the great march of self-reliance and led the

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economic construction, thereby continuing his super-intensive march.

Korea successfully overcame the severe economic difficulties to enter a new period of advancement and developed into a country capable of manufacturing and launching artificial satellites.

The might of Songun introduced an astonishing reality that the heads of great powers and high-ranking personages visited Korea one after another and tens of countries including the European countries established diplomatic ties with the DPRK.

In addition, two rounds of North-South summit meeting were held for the first time in the annals of the national division and the June 15 Joint Declaration and October 4 Declaration were adopted to herald a historical turning point in the Korea's reunification.

The Songun made itself a historical term symbolic of Korea and the Songun Korea became the banner of the world socialist movement and the bulwark defending the cause of anti-imperialism and independence in the new era.

Accordingly, the progressive people of the world held, on a regular basis, an international gathering on Mt. Paektu of Korea where leader **Kim Jong Il** was born, praising him as the Songun sun illuminating the path of mankind in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Though, President **Kim Il Sung** and leader **Kim Jong Il** passed away, their ideas and cause are being carried forward invariably onto a higher stage by His Excellency **Kim Jong Un**, another rare great man.

In the morning of the New Year's Day of 2012, the first year after the demise of leader **Kim Jong Il**, he made an inspection to the guard tank division, where leader **Kim Jong Il** had started his military leadership 50 years ago, to send his clear and meaningful message to the world.

Several months later on April 15<sup>th</sup>, in his first formal address given to the military parade in celebration of the centenary of the birth of President **Kim Il Sung**, he set out the policy to advance along the pathway of independence, Songun and socialism put forth by President **Kim Il Sung** and leader **Kim Jong Il**, as a far-reaching strategy and expressed his firm determination to build up a socialist powerful state relying on the single-hearted unity, an invincible military force and a new-century industrial revolution.

This address reminiscent of the first speech of President **Kim Il Sung** on his triumphal return evoked a sensational response in the world and gave new hope and confidence to the progressive people enveloped in sorrow after the demise of leader **Kim Jong Il**.

H.E. **Kim Jong Un** enforced a politics of benevolence with the people-first policy as his political idea and unusually strengthened the comprehensive national power by strongly pushing forward the economic construction and the building up of a nuclear force simultaneously.

The progressive people saw in his vigorous look and activities the image of President **Kim Il Sung**, who had demonstrated the might of heroic *Chollima* Korea and that of leader **Kim Jong Il**, who elevated the national power of Korea to the highest level in 1980s, and consolidated their expectation and desire to commit the future of the independence cause of mankind to him.

I recall the 5<sup>th</sup> International Festival in Praise of the Great Persons of Mt. Paektu held in August 2017. The delegates from all over the world solemnly announced, on the top of Mt. Paektu, the 2017 Paektusan Declaration praising President **Kim Il Sung** and leader **Kim Jong Il** as the eternal sun of Juche and Songun and upholding H.E. **Kim Jong Un**, leading the independence cause of mankind to victory, as the sun of



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21<sup>st</sup> century.

What happened afterwards clearly proved the validity of the Paektusan Declaration. The year 2018 alone saw three rounds of North-South summit meetings, DPRK-China summit meetings and DPRK-US summit meeting, the first ever in history, and subsequent North-South declarations and DPRK-US Joint Declaration to bring about an unprecedented era of peace, prosperity and reunification.

This year as well, H.E. **Kim Jong Un** visited China, Viet Nam and Russia one after another to perform energetic summit diplomacy and brought about the second DPRK-US summit meeting, thereby displaying his prominent competency and qualities as a world leader.

Korea is advancing without budge, despite the tightest sanctions, by relying on its firm independent economic foundation and making the development in *Mallima* speed more rapidly than that of *Chollima*.

Though, small in territory, Korea stands in the fore front of the strategic countries and in the center of world politics.

I announce with conviction that H.E. **Kim Jong Un** is the master of the world politics, greatest of great men, and an outstanding leader of the independence cause of mankind in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, since he achieved such great merit in such a short span of time, aware of the sense of heavy responsibility for the destiny of the nation and the country and the peace of the world.

I assert that H.E. **Kim Jong Un** is young, passionate, experienced and wise. These features guarantee the bright future of the independence cause of mankind in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

Dear friends, the exploits of President **Kim Il Sung** and

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leader **Kim Jong Il** remain brilliant, along with the glorious history of socialist Korea and the victorious advance of the independence cause of mankind.

Victory is in store for the just cause of the Korean people and the independence cause of mankind led by H.E. **Kim Jong Un**, who is faithfully succeeding the noble will and cause of President **Kim Il Sung** and leader **Kim Jong Il**.

Thank you.

Damian Uzoma Ogbonna

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