

Characteristics of Kim Jong Un's People-first Politics

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is achieving great successes under the people-first politics of Kim Jong Un, President of the State Affairs of the DPRK. The single-minded unity between the leader, the Party and the masses of the people is getting more solid, while all fields of the economy and culture are making great progress. This politics has its characteristic features, the most important of which is that it ensures that everything serves the masses.

As a matter of fact, all politicians the world over advocate politics for the people. But the reality is far from it.

In the United States which claims to be a "model" of democracy, it is recognized that politics is for tycoons, who account for only one percent of its population.

It is a common practice in the world to increase tax rate and reduce the fund for social welfare whenever an economic crisis occurs.

However, Kim Jong Un's politics is not for any specific group but for the broad masses of the people.

An example is Kyongru-dong, the first model of a terraced houses district built on the bank of the Pothong River in the capital city of Pyongyang. In capitalist countries, only millionaires can afford to buy such luxury apartment houses in the district. But Kim Jong Un ensured that the houses were provided to workers, scientists, technicians and writers who had worked faithfully for the country.

Recently, the country built 10 000 flats in Songhwa Street and another 10 000 flats for the first-stage project in the Hwasong area. Each one of such flats would cost hundreds of thousands of US dollars in capitalist countries. Those flats were provided free of charge to the blue-collar and white-collar workers and other ordinary working people.

Even when it was experiencing difficulties, the country did not abandon its people-oriented policies but, instead, expanded and strengthened them.

Although the global public health crisis caused it many economic difficulties, it adopted decisions to supply nutritious foods including dairy produce to all the children and new uniforms and bags to all the students across the country at the state expense, build 50 000 flats, 10 000 each year, in Pyongyang and transform the appearance of the countryside by extensively building modern rural houses. What should be remembered is that these decisions were made not because there was a surplus of funds in the country's coffers.

It is necessary to ponder the meaning of the word *first* in the phrase *the people-first principle*.

The famous Munsu Water Park in the Munsu area in Pyongyang has a moving story.

After inspecting the completed Munsu Water Park of the Eldorado style one day, Kim Jong Un said that the joints of the slides should be treated well to prevent the people from getting injured. Then he organized a "special service" for officials so that they could see if the joints were properly fitted while riding the slides.

Officials of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government should make selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people and everything should exist for the sake of the people—this is the people-first politics of Kim Jong Un.

Thanks to this politics, the masses of the people participate widely in administering state affairs as the real masters of politics, and the state takes full responsibility for the people's food, clothing and housing and considers the people's convenience first when building or making something.

Another characteristic feature of the people-first politics is that everything is carried out by relying on the masses.

In building a powerful socialist country, the DPRK is relying mainly on the inexhaustible wisdom, strength and enthusiasm of the masses, rather than any source of funds.

After he sets goals for each period and stage at Party congresses, its Central Committee's plenary meetings and on other important occasions, Kim Jong Un pays primary attention to arousing the people to the struggle to attain them. At the end of last year, he stressed that in the coming year all the people, by inheriting the traditions of loyalty and patriotism, should conduct various dynamic mass movements conducive to the building of a powerful socialist country.

The country relies on mass movements in every endeavour to make progress in various economic fields, be it for developing new technologies or expanding production and improving the quality of products. In the course of the mass movements, the political consciousness and enthusiasm of the people are raised and the whole society becomes vibrant with vigour and efforts for new creations.

The wisdom and efforts of workers and technicians are bringing about tangible successes in key industrial sectors like the metal and chemical industries, which guarantee the country's sustainable development. It can be said that one of the factors for the successful promotion of the building of 10 000 flats each year in Pyongyang during the period of the current five-year plan for development of the national economy (2021-2025) is the brisk mass technical innovation drive and socialist emulation movement that construction units are waging among themselves to ensure the construction speed.

In September this year marking the 75th anniversary of its founding, the DPRK demonstrated once again to the world that the strength and enthusiasm of the people who are united around the Party with one mind are inexhaustible.

It is quite natural that the masses of the people should absolutely support the politics that puts forward them as the most precious beings and relies entirely on them. Now the Korean people are fully aware that all the policies of the WPK and the government of the DPRK are for their happiness, and therefore they are devoting all their wisdom, conscience and patriotic enthusiasm to their implementation. This can be called the main reason for the fact that the country, though many things are still in short supply, remains socially and politically stable, and makes new innovations in the economic sector and develops the defence industry at a rapid rate.



Labour innovators and other meritorious persons moving into new houses in Kyongru-dong, a luxury residential area, in April 2022



Part of the 10 000-flat Songhwa Street built wonderfully as homes for the people



Some of the 10 000 flats built for the first-stage project
in the Hwasong area inaugurated in April 2023



New school uniforms were provided to students in April 2023
in the run-up to a new school year.