

On occasion of the 27th anniversary of the death of President Kim Il Sung



History of the Great Leader Continues

Worldwide, a number of personages left their names in history for their exploits, noble virtues and excellent mode of politics. After their death, however, their aims and exploits were almost forgotten; few of them enjoy as much respect as they did in their lifetime. However laudable, their achievements are remembered merely as a historical story after they died. To put it briefly, memories of a famous person fade away with the passage of time.

But this is not the case with President Kim Il Sung.

In the first half of the 20th century, when Korea was a colony of Japan, he waged a long, bloody struggle to win back its national sovereignty. After the country's liberation on August 15, 1945, he founded the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and developed it into a genuine people's country and independent power.

He was a world-renowned statesman who rendered both material and moral support to third-world countries in building new society and made a great contribution to the struggles for independence including the non-aligned movement.

He passed away on July 8, 1994, but his history still continues.

The Juche idea authored by him and his theories are still applied by the DPRK in its building and activities; his books are read by all the citizens.

His life-long motto was affection for the people and the spirit of independence.

Believing in the people as in heaven, he devoted his all to their wellbeing till the last moment of his life.

By adhering to the principle of independence in the building of the state and its activities, he repudiated dominationism and rendered an immortal contribution to building an independent, new world.

Today the DPRK does everything as intended by the President. The people-first principle is

the state's political ideal; the country maintains the principles of independence in politics, self-sufficiency in the economy and self-reliance in national defence.

He is held in high esteem as the eternal leader and benevolent father of the Korean people.

Mosaic murals depicting the smiling leader and the towers dedicated to his immortality are seen all over the country.

With boundless yearning for him, all the people visit his statues and murals on his birthday and other significant occasions.

They love singing songs in praise of him and telling stories about his devotion to the country.

Measures have been taken for handing down his exploits to posterity and preserving all the places associated with his activities to be used for the purpose of recollecting and learning from him.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the political history of the world and of his internationalist activities, orders and medals have been conferred on him by many countries even after his death. Also, the April Spring Friendship Art Festival is held on a large scale on the occasion of his birthday, attended by artistes from around the world.

Social Policies Beneficial for the Entire Population

Amidst persistent sanctions and blockade imposed by the hostile forces, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea continues to implement social policies beneficial for the people. Though in a difficult economic situation, it expands and develops such policies.

The universal free medical care and education system can be said to be typical of the country's social policies. Though similar systems can be found in many other countries, they are much smaller in scope.

The universal free medical care system of the country is enforced through the well-regulated medical care system which consists of people's hospitals in ri, the lowest administrative unit, and in counties, cities and provinces, clinics and hospitals in industrial establishments and many other specialized hospitals. This system is advantageous in that all the costs for diagnosing, treating, drugs, lodging and boarding during the prescribed period of inpatient treatment, and even travelling to and from sanatoria, are borne by the state. Doctors also take charge of certain families and conduct even prophylactic treatment for various illnesses. In recent years the country built several specialized hospitals including the Okryu Children's Hospital, Ryugyong Dental Hospital and Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital to improve the quality of medical care. A telemedicine system was established from Pyongyang to every provincial, city, county and ri people's hospital so as to allow even the patients in remote mountainous regions ready access to qualified medical help.

Also, the country's free education system has reached a higher standard. A few years ago, one more year was added to the 11-year compulsory education system. As in the past, higher education is still free and students receive stipends. The study-while-you-work system including distance learning, extracurricular education facilities for students including schoolchildren's palaces and schoolchildren's halls and social education networks for adults are all free of charge. Uniforms, textbooks and notebooks are provided at cheap prices to students at all educational institutions from primary schools to universities.

Apartment buildings are also built at state expense and provided gratis to the people. Foreign visitors are surprised to know that energy-saving, green flats in Ryomyong Street, each covering an area of over one hundred square metres, are provided free of charge to ordinary working

people. What is more, the hosts do not know the costs of their new flats. Not only in urban areas but also in rural areas houses are built by the state and distributed to the farmers free of charge. This policy has been enforced for scores of years.

The DPRK is the only tax-free country in the world. Already in 1974, it abolished tax system completely and its people do not even know the word tax. This is also one of its unique social benefits.

Other examples are maternity leave, paid holidays, and accommodation at health resorts and holiday homes.

Though not as luxurious as the rich in the West, the people in the DPRK are leading an equal, dignified life without any worries about housing, medical treatment and education of their children.