

DPRK Seeks Stable, Gradual and Qualitative Development



The DPRK defined the next five years as a phase of its stable, gradual and qualitative development.

In his report to the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, General Secretary Kim Jong Un said that the period of new five-year plan should be a phase of stabilization and consolidation, a phase of gradual and qualitative development, and that this must be set as the general goal, the principle of the work of the ninth-term Party Central Committee.

Over the past five years, the country created a new trend of comprehensive development of socialism and put the overall national economy on a track of growth. The policy of readjusting and developing the overall sectors of the national economy in a balanced way was adopted, and efforts were directed to the technical rehabilitation, reinforcement and development in all sectors of the national economy, aimed at perfecting the self-supporting production structure and shoring up the backward sectors. During the period, numerous units were newly reinforced or renovated in all sectors of the national economy. In particular, a series of projects were launched to develop cities and counties across the country, with the result that modern regional-industry factories

were built in one-fifth of the country in a couple of years.

In a nutshell, the economic foundations of the DPRK have been further expanded and consolidated, and an epoch-making growth has been made in terms of production capacity and technical level.

Under these circumstances, Kim Jong Un proposed it as an important task to qualitatively consolidate the foundations for the production of the key industries to powerfully guarantee the growth of the overall economy during the period of new five-year plan. In the report he put forward the tasks to build a new groundwork for the light industry, and further perfect the irrigation system of the country in a bid to lay the solid material and technical foundations of agriculture. In other words, the main thrust of his report is to stabilize and consolidate the existing production foundations and achieve gradual and qualitative development.

What needs special attention is that the stabilization and consolidation, and gradual and qualitative development, do not mean that the country does not want to have a breathing space or pursue slow development. This is because the goals to be attained in the period of the new five-year plan seem to be much higher than those of the previous five-year plan period.

The qualitative consolidation of the foundations for the production of the key industries and all other economic sectors can be interpreted as the uninterrupted increase of production.

As for the regional development policy, when the regional-industry factories, hospitals and leisure complexes are to be built in 20 cities and counties every year, it will result in a complete change in the economic and cultural foundations of over 140 cities and counties, accounting for more than half all the cities and counties in the country. This means there will be a massive growth in the production foundations and output in the regional economy.

It is expected that the DPRK will build a stable and sustainable foundation for development to bring about a greater change in the period of new five-year plan, too.