

## **Economic self-reliance is the base for the development and prosperity of the country and nation**

Mr. Chairman,

Fellow participants,

I am very pleased to be invited to the African Regional Conference on the Juche Idea and I would like to take this opportunity to speak about the realization of the economic self-reliance in Africa by embodying the Juche Idea is the basis for the economic development and prosperity in Africa.

Let me say the reason why the economic self-reliance constitutes the foundation for the development and prosperity of the country and nation.

It is because economy is the material basis of a social life in the first place.

It is, therefore, for this reason that the self-sufficiency in national economy is the material foundation of an independent state.

Only when the African countries build the self-sufficient national economy, can they consolidate the political independence of the country and get the people out of starvation and poverty.

Next, it has something to do with the fact that the lack of economic self-sufficiency will lead to the economic subjugation by big powers and that would eventually result in the political subordination.

As you are aware, some of the African developing countries are now undergoing various difficulties in their efforts to construct the self-sufficient national economy due to the policy of neo-colonialism pursued by the imperialists.

The developed countries are making tricky moves to subordinate the developing countries economically under the pretext of so called “assistance” or “cooperation” and so on.

Therefore, it is crystal-clear that only when we realize the economic self-reliance can we solidify our hard-won national independence, live with our head high and bring about the national development and prosperity by enhancing the living standard of the people both from material and cultural point of view.

Then the question may arise. How could we achieve the economic self-reliance by properly embodying the Juche Idea in the African continent?

President Kim Il Sung, founder of Juche Idea said as follows.

“In order to commit ourselves to the principles of self-reliance in the economy, the independent national economy should be built.”

Firstly, we should build the self-sufficient national economy.

To construct the self-reliant economy means building the economy which is developing in reliance on the strength of one’s own people and natural resources. Namely, the economy which is

on its feet free from subordination by others.

To build the self-reliant national economy one should be committed to the principles of self-reliance in the economic construction.

Along with the aforesaid, economy should be developed in an all-round and multifaceted way. And at the same time, the economy should be equipped with modern technology training the national able technicians massively.

What is important here is to set up strong and ample raw material and fuel bases.

To this end, we should mobilize to the maximum our own resources and reserves on the principle of self-reliance and hard work. Ethiopian people turned out in the struggle to implement “the 5-year plan for growth and transformation” to build independent national economy.

Ethiopian government is trying to develop the infer-structures such as roads, railways, hydro-power stations, telecommunication, transportation and so on, to attract more foreign investment on manufacturing industry, while eliminating all corruptions and wrongdoings and establishing the sound administrative management.

Ethiopia, heavily depending on the import of oil products, is trying to build the independent national economy on the principle of self-reliance. Just to mention a few, we are striving to solve the problem of oil by mixing the ethanol with petroleum so as to reduce the national oil consumption and deal with the fuel problem on the part of the people by getting them use the ethanol instead of petroleum.

Secondly, the south-south cooperation should be effected.

The African countries should realize south-south cooperation on the principle of collective self-reliance.

The south-south cooperation is the noble work as far as the developing countries are concerned to achieve the economic self-reliance through close inter-African cooperation and exchange in the field of economy.

The promotion of the south-south cooperation will lead to the successful building of independent national economy in the developing countries and make it possible to replace the old international economic order with new and fair one.

Ample are the conditions and possibilities for realizing the south-south cooperation in effect.

African countries have common interests in the south-south cooperation because of their common positions and aspirations. African countries have inexhaustible manpower and ample natural resources and in addition to that, good experiences and technology to exchange with each other.

If African countries use the existing conditions and possibilities rightly and make joint efforts together, the south-south cooperation can be smoothly realized.

African countries should cooperate and exchange with each other starting from the field feasible, realistic and urgent. First of all, the south-south cooperation should be effected in the field of agriculture.

As far as African countries are concerned, the food problem stands out as the most urgent problem.

Even though many African countries are gifted with vast size of territory and population, they are not succeeding in agriculture for lack of farming experts and technicians and machineries.

To gather good harvests in farming and realize self-sufficiency in food, African countries must undertake irrigation projects and improve the method of farming.

In 1980's the joint farming was conducted as a pilot project and at that time the prospect of joint project was bright.

Should African countries improve the method of farming by concerted efforts and wisdom they would realize the self-sufficiency in food.

If we develop south-south cooperation from the stand of helping each other sincerely I feel sure that African countries could effect economic growth.

Now close economic cooperation in the field of water irrigation, construction of fertilizer factory, health sector is underway and is making headway. I think this set a good example of south-south cooperation and we should further strengthen and develop this kind of cooperation between the two countries in several fields.

The economic cooperation between Ethiopia and many countries in the world are galvanizing economic cooperation and this is conducive toward achieving the economic self-reliance in Ethiopia. Such economic self-reliance in African countries would promote the economic development on the whole and pave the way for providing the people of the continent with affluent life and thus contributing in large measure to carrying forward the cause of global independence.

Thank you. Ethiopia