

Keynote Paper to African Regional Seminar on Juche Idea

Youths in Africa Must Defend Independence and Promote Peace and Develop Their Countries with Progressive Ideology Guidance



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Introduction

Youths in Africa must defend their national independence and promote peace and develop their countries. The danger which threatens the development of Africa is the absence of progressive ideology. That is the internal root of development problems in Africa of not having a conscious sense of political direction and hence the opportunistic behavior and actions of some African leaders in their countries.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was under the Japanese fascist imperialist domination and ruthless oppression and exploitation. President Kim Il Sung authored the Juche idea, a man-centered philosophy which reflected the Korean people's consciousness and cultural values.

President Kim Il Sung provided the Juche idea which guided the anti-Japanese struggle and in the 1950s the anti-United States of America imperialist attempt to re-colonize Korea. The DPRK is an independent sovereign state which is strong in military in the face of the United States of America military threats and sanctions.

Ideology for the Struggle for Political Independence in Africa

European colonial powers surrendered the colonial rule in the countries of Africa, but some former European colonizers tried to frustrate the liberation struggle in that the won political independence would not go beyond the initial flag independence celebrations. Neo-colonialism was introduced using neo-colonial ideological penetration in Africa. Neo-colonial educational system was used to indoctrinate the youths in schools, colleges and universities to believe that the European and American middle-class values were good for the future of the countries of Africa. Neo-colonial education system in Africa was intended to make the youths in Africa turn away from nationalist anti-colonial ideology and reject progressive ideology. The indoctrinated post-colonial generation of the youths in Africa lack sense of patriotism, self-respect and confidence in their countries. Capitalist foreign aid and capitalist foreign investments have been used to promote neo-colonial exploitation in the countries of Africa.

The role of ideology to the people in Africa for national development is that ideology seeks to establish common attitudes and purpose for society. Ideology provides and directs the criteria for the form various institutions should channel their common effort. Ideology determines the division of labour and working relationships which various institutions have to adopt in order to maximize their development. It is ideology which determines the nature of the economy and social development and the distribution of wealth in a country.

Youths in African need progressive ideology which can create in the youth's sense of unity, mutual respect, trust, confidence and self-reliance. The history of Africa reveals that the people of Africa have been degraded, despised and exploited by colonialism. Progressive ideology facilitates the people of Africa to form unity to fight for their liberation, independence, sovereignty, peace and human dignity as the condition for genuine development and progress.

Lack of Progressive Ideology and Underdevelopment in Countries of Africa

It is lack of a clear revolutionary ideology which is the root cause of underdevelopment in some countries of Africa leading to disgrace and contempt in those countries. The practice of some African leaders and some bureaucrats to depend on capitalist foreign aid and capitalist investments of foreign investors for development in some countries of Africa promotes neo-colonialism in their countries.

Some leaders of Africa and some bureaucratic elites who welcome capitalist investors lead to neo-colonial exploitation in their countries under the pressure of dependence on capitalist foreign aid and capitalist foreign investments in some countries of Africa because of the false hopes, beliefs and trust on foreign capitalist donor countries and their international institutions. In this way some countries of Africa have become caretakers for the neo-colonial international institutions.

The problem which is facing some countries of Africa is that of lack of clear ideological consciousness. Capitalist globalization does not support the development of social consciousness which can unite the masses of the people of Africa who are oppressed and exploited by neo-colonialism.

Some capitalist foreign investors do not bring capital to Africa, but they borrow money from local banks and they continue to reinvest their accumulated surplus profits. Foreign investors also transfer money by various hidden means to the home countries of the capitalist foreign investors. Methods of tax evasion are also used to escape taxation of investors who have taken over by buying and controlling sold or privatized national enterprises in some countries of Africa. Tax holiday under the declaration of the values of imports and income from exports favours exploitation by foreign capitalist investors in Africa. Education financed and provided by capitalist donor countries is a means of penetrating neo-colonial ideology to the youths in Africa to turn them into servants of neo-colonial capitalist investors in Africa. Some people in Africa are not fully aware of the danger to the survival of the people of Africa and the danger posed by capitalist imperialist countries which advance and promote neo-colonialism in Africa.

Countries of Africa Should Learn from the Juche Idea on Strategies for National Development

The Juche idea was authored by President Kim Il Sung and it is a man-centered philosophy that man is the master of everything and controls everything. The Juche idea is the most modern liberation ideology which has proved successful in the DPRK. The Juche idea cannot be subdued by imperialist reactionary ideas. The Juche idea is powerful in guiding the struggle for real independence, sovereignty, peace and development in the strategy of self-reliance.

The countries of Africa have their political independence, but the countries continue to suffer from neo-colonial exploitation. Some leaders of Africa and neo-colonial bureaucrats

have become liberal and reconciliatory in dealing with the imperialists in order to attract foreign aid and investments from capitalist countries for development in some countries of Africa. The bourgeois leaders and bourgeois elites in some countries of Africa have become partners with neo-colonial capitalist investors and because of their relations, the bourgeois leaders and some elites in Africa cannot openly oppose neo-colonial exploitation in their countries but they become agents and caretakers of capitalist foreign investors, whom they consider to be development partners.

Without the people-centered ideology in Africa, social revolution cannot effectively take place. The problem in Africa is that some leaders and some bureaucrats in Africa do not accept the power of the progressive ideology to lead the revolution and construction for effective social economic change in the countries of Africa. This is the reason why some countries of Africa accept the conditionalities, which are dictated by capitalist donor countries and capitalist institutions which include the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Some leaders of Africa count on capitalist foreign aid and capitalist foreign investments as necessary solutions for development of their countries. In this situation the capitalist foreign donors and capitalist foreign investors are viewed as development partners. The imperialist theory of exploitation of the countries of Africa is based on the export of capital for exploitation purposes and is changed into foreign donors' relations of development with the countries of Africa.

We researchers of the Juche idea should learn from what Kim Jong Il wrote in 1995: "Giving Priority to Ideological Work is Essential for Accomplishing Socialism." For us in Africa, this means that ideological work is necessary to achieve revolution, construction, development and peace in the countries of Africa.

In order to appreciate the relevance of the Juche idea to what the people of Africa want: in order to achieve development, peace and progress it is imperative to understand that President Kim Il Sung explained the Juche idea as follows:

"The masters of revolution and construction are the masses of the people and they are also the motive force of the revolution and construction." (Kim Il Sung, "On the Juche Idea" (Excerpts) Foreign Languages Publishing House. Pyongyang in 1979)

The masters of genuine revolution and construction are the masses of the people. Development of the country is brought by the work of the masses of the people to bring fundamental change to the socio-economic structures and create new socio-economic

structures to meet their objectives, aspirations and expectations. The essence of development means the development of the people, by the people for the people. The Juche idea directs that the masses of the people decide everything. When we depend on the masses of the people and go among them and rouse them to action, we can frustrate the mechanism of the imperialists and reactionaries and defend national independence and overcome all obstacles and difficulties.

The experience of the DPRK shows that if the masses of the people stand firmly on the Juche idea that the masses of the people are the masters of their own destiny and they shape their own destiny themselves and work out the path toward their new life, they are capable of building a prosperous new society, regardless of how backward the country was in the past.

We should understand that the people in Africa who believe in and look for foreign aid and foreign investments from capitalist donor countries and capitalist financial institutions cannot achieve meaningful development in their countries. The countries of Africa have to adopt a development path of self-reliance. The countries of Africa have to use their own resources and their capabilities without relying on capitalist countries to be given capitalist foreign aid and foreign investments for national development in Africa. That means countries of Africa have to be self-reliant in their national development strategies. One obstacle to development for a fundamental transformation in Africa is the belief of some leaders of Africa to depend on the capitalist donor countries and the capitalist financial institutions for foreign aid and foreign investments to bring development in their countries. Foreign aid and foreign investments from the capitalist countries are means of promoting exploitation in the countries of Africa.

Capitalist foreign aid and capitalist foreign investments in the countries of Africa are means of promoting capitalist exploitation in the countries of Africa. Foreign aid and foreign investments given by capitalist countries may be received late or they may not be adequate and capitalist loans given to the countries of Africa, have to be paid back with interest from the countries of Africa.

The countries of Africa should use political education to educate and arouse the youths in Africa to defend national independence and promote peace and development in the countries of Africa. Without political education training of the youths in Africa, it may be difficult to create youth's political organizations or youth's movements to conduct youth's activities effectively in their countries. There may also be a problem that some leaders in Africa and some elites in

some countries of Africa may see political education as a means to indoctrinate the youths in Africa. These leaders and elites in Africa may not approve and support to train the youths in Africa in political education. Leaders and elites in Africa who support neo-colonialism may not see the link between training the youths in political education and political organization for genuine unity, liberation struggle, peace and development in the countries of Africa.

Independence, Progressive Ideology and Peace for Development of Africa

Political independence of the countries of Africa was guided and achieved using anti-colonial ideology which united the people of Africa in their countries to struggle against European colonial rule in the countries of Africa. But following the declaration and celebrations of political independence in the countries of Africa, there were attempts to threaten and destabilize the independence in the countries of Africa. There have been instigating military coups to remove revolutionary anti-imperialist government leaders.

Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba of the Democratic Republic of Congo was the first martyr killed in Africa by imperialists. Neo-colonial ideology was penetrated using the education system in Schools, Colleges and Universities using teachers, lecturers and professors from former capitalist ruling European countries. The neo-colonialism was launched in Africa to facilitate neo-colonial exploitation of countries of Africa and frustrate any real post-independence fundamental change in the colonial built social, economic, political and cultural system which colonial governments left in their former colonies. Neo-colonialism was intended to make the independence of the countries of Africa meaningless through powerful control and national machinery of domination by imperialists. The real aim was to indoctrinate the African youths to believe that progressive ideology was not relevant in Africa.

The struggle for political independence took on a political fight for national independence. The abolition of foreign control of labour, resources and land was the substance for which independence was sought. Although the countries of Africa have political independence, but the main characteristic of the economy remains its colonial character, its basis in cash crops and minerals extraction, etc., for profits of foreign monopolies. Structural Adjustment Programmes make sure there should be no positive change. That is what capitalist globalization wants to maintain in Africa.

The domination, humiliation, exploitation and degradation of the people of African was

the real force behind the anti-colonial struggles in Africa. The development of Africa is the task and responsibility of the people of Africa themselves. This is what people of African should learn based on the Juche idea that man is the master of everything and controls everything and the people of Africa have to work for their destiny.

The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have Structural Adjustment Programmes for the countries of Africa. The programmes include liberalization, privatization and free market-driven economy in the countries of Africa. These are neo-colonial conditions which lead to exploitation of the countries of Africa. In this situation the bourgeois leaders of Africa make their countries caretakers of neo-colonial activities in their countries.

Progressive ideology is necessary for peace and development of the independent countries of Africa. The Juche idea that man is the master of everything and man controls everything guides Juche idea researchers to rise and go to the masses of the people in their countries of Africa and lead and mobilize them, live with the masses of the people, listen to them and learn from them and awaken their patriotic consciousness as the masters of the countries of



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Africa. The masses of the people decide their destiny in their countries of Africa.

Economic commanding heights and social assets are the basis of people's independence, sovereignty, patriotism, national pride, self-reliance and confidence in the people as the masters of their own destiny. The commanding heights and social assets should not be privatized or sold to foreign capitalists. The grabbed collective national property can be retrieved, by the united struggle of the popular masses who feel humiliated and exploited by the capitalist foreign investors.

Socio-economic transformation for development means that the struggle suggests a transition from something old to something new. The colonial rule was not for positive development of Africa. The colonial rule was for underdevelopment of Africa because the colonial rule destroyed the basis of real development as an endogenous process that originates from within the society that feels it needs a transformation, a fundamental change in the socio-economic system inherited from the European colonizers.

Development of the people should be the development by the people for their benefit. Development cannot be done by outsiders acting on a foreign society to achieve what the people really want. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank development models imposed on governments of the countries of Africa have failed to develop the countries of Africa because the people of Africa do not really accept the imposed models of development in their countries in Africa for genuine development of the people as the masters of their destiny in their countries.

Bourgeois leaders and bureaucrats in some countries of Africa please the foreign capitalist donors in order to get support and appreciation from the foreign capitalist countries and their international institutions and corporations. Development models imposed on the people in Africa may not be relevant to what they want in their development priorities. People would like to be free from the neo-colonial oppression and exploitation, degradation and humiliation.

Conclusion

Patriotism and national pride are consciousness coming from the people as a result of their struggle to achieve development and realize their destiny. Development of the countries of Africa is far reaching structural changes in the national economy. Genuine development taking place in the countries of Africa, should result in structural changes in the economy

and social development of the countries of Africa as a result of relevant and appropriate investments for development in Africa. But the neo-colonial economy has continued to under-develop Africa and the people of Africa.

There is also problem of African political leaders, business people, landowners and bureaucrats who blame neo-colonialism, but they are corrupt and they enrich themselves by unacceptable ways and means. Although the countries of Africa have political independence, some political leaders and bourgeois bureaucratic elites are not capable to carry through the social and economic development in their countries. They are concerned about the modernization of their countries by foreign capitalist donors and investors. This is neo-colonial mentality and behavior of inferiority complex, which are not relevant to the real development of the countries of Africa. Some political leaders and bourgeois bureaucratic elites in some countries of Africa are not capable to carry through the social and economic revolutions which are necessary for self-sustaining national development in Africa.

Genuine development in the countries of Africa is a struggle of the people of each country in Africa to achieve the destiny of the people. This is the basis of independence, sovereignty, patriotism, national pride, self-respect and confidence of the people.

People-centered development can triumph over neo-colonialism in Africa and lead to genuine development in the countries of Africa for the benefit of the people of Africa. The Juche idea that is based on the philosophy that the masses of the people are the masters of their own destiny should be the strategy for genuine and real development in the countries of Africa.