

## Need for Integration of Africa for Rapid Transformation



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All comrade directors, representing the chapters of Juche followers in Africa,

Distinguished representatives of the Korean Association of Social Scientists (KASS),

Representative from the International Institute of the Juche Idea (IIJI),

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, I am greatly honored to be addressing on the occasion of the seminar held in a free South Africa.

There could never have been a better venue to hold this historic meeting than South Africa, a clear monument of humanity's desire to exercise unfettered freedom for all.

South Africa which suffered the vagaries of both colonialism and later the degrading apartheid system inspires all human kind to appreciate that whatever amount of repression one may wish to subject humanity, it can never defeat and

suppress the inner-most man's desire to be independent and a decider of one's own destiny.

The triumph of the nationalist and democratic forces in South Africa, led by the great son of Africa, comrade Nelson Mandela, attest to the correctness and immortality of the Juche philosophy that was put forward by President Kim Il Sung and fully consolidated by General Secretary Kim Jong Il.

We are gathered here, bound by the belief that the Juche philosophy is an invincible guiding principle that has seen a small, once colonized Korea rise from such history to independence and now marching towards becoming not only a transformed socialist paradise, but a world power to be reckoned with.

Comrades!

It is against this background that I implore us to reflect on the cause of Africa,

a continent that today remains an enclave of underdevelopment with in a framework of unprecedented fragmentation, that made a people once a cradle of civilization, to be shared and subjugated by the greedy European powers. The irony however, is that Africans' large and by are not even conscious of the fact that they are marginalized, balkanized and simply possessions of the imperialist forces.

Therefore, at this August forum of people who cherish independence, dignity of man as a master of one's destiny, believing that man is the only conscious being that decides everything, it is important that we underscore the importance of Africa's re-awakening to embrace a philosophy of regaining lost dignity and self-determination.

Africa needs to redefine their value system to among other things believe in the right to be a prosperous people, and begin shunning inferiority, complex and defeatist mentality that is akin of a colonial mindset.

The need for an ideological re-orientation of Africa, would indeed ignite the realization that in unity and re-integration would lie the much-needed strength to oppose domination. Imperialism always thrives on dividing nations, countries and people of common ancestry. There is no way Africa shall enjoy meaningful independence, if we do not strive to

change the mindset of all the masses of Africa, from being beggars, users of other peoples' items and technology to be a proud people putting forward a desire to be self-reliant and working for complete integration of Africa either into viable economic blocs or a one powerful united Africa.

This way Africa's capability to defend herself shall be enhanced thus guaranteeing her independence and rapid socio-economic transformation.

In this endeavor let us remember that it is not going to be an easy path, but rather must be ready to carry out a long march like an arduous journey, that has been demonstrated by the DPRK, the land of Juche and Songun.

We must adopt an ideological path that takes into account the concrete realities, while borrowing the lessons from the Juche philosophy that has been preserved through Songun policies.

We should stand encouraged by the resilience of the DPRK, today standing up against imperialist aggression. Africa therefore should realize that independence is only possible when you are strong. Strength is a factor of unity and believing in determining one's destiny.

(Opening address at an African Regional Seminar on the Juche Idea held in Johannesburg on October 28, 2016)