

'I will be president for everyone, encompassing and serving all people'

'We will be a just and unifying gov't, a flexible and pragmatic gov't'



President Lee Jae Myung takes the oath of office during the inauguration ceremony of the 14th president at the National Assembly in Yeouido, Seoul, on June 4.

President Lee Jae Myung on June 4 said he will be “a president for everyone, to include and serve all people, no matter who you supported in the presidential election, in line with bringing meaning to a call for greater unity.”

“The Lee Jae Myung government will be a pragmatic, market-oriented government,” he said. “Not a government that controls and manages but a government that supports and encourages.”

“The new Democratic Party government of Lee Jae Myung will be a just, unifying and flexible pragmatic government,” he said, defining the identity of the new government.

President Lee introduced this blueprint for governance in his “Message to the People” after taking the oath of office at the National Assembly.

'Restoring people's livelihoods and reviving economy'

“It is time to rebuild genuine security and peace, which have been reduced to a tool of political strife; people’s livelihoods and economy, which have been destroyed by indifference, incompetence and irresponsibility; and democracy, which has been destroyed by armored vehicles and automatic rifles,” Lee said.

“The insurgency, which usurped national sovereignty at the point of a gun entrusted to the people, must never happen again. We will thoroughly investigate the truth, hold those responsible accountable and firmly prepare measures to prevent a recurrence,” he said, emphasizing his determination to overcome the insurgency.

However, the president emphasized the need to move past the martial law incident, saying, “An enlightened revolution commands us to go beyond ending the insurgency and build a shining new country.

“We are now at a crossroads of great transformation,” Lee said. “We are facing a complex crisis that is layered like tangled threads in all areas of civil life, economy, foreign affairs, security and democracy.”

In particular, Lee made it clear he would focus on the economy, saying he would “start by restoring people’s livelihoods and revitalizing the economy.” In fact, the word ‘citizens’ appears 42 times in the draft of the speech distributed by the presidential office, followed by ‘growth’ 22 times and ‘economy’ 12 times.

“I will immediately activate the Emergency Economic Response Task Force with the determination to fight the recession,” Lee said. “We will revive the virtuous cycle of the economy by revitalizing the national finances.”

Lee emphasized the need for “a country that grows and develops strongly again,” stating, “Fair growth, which creates new growth engines and shares the opportunities and results of growth, will open the door to a better world.”

He promised to invest heavily in and support high-tech industries, such as AI and semiconductors, and to transition to a renewable energy-centered society in response to the climate crisis.

'Ending division and becoming market-oriented government'

The president emphasized: “We need to transform our growth and development strategy for sustainable growth. We must move toward balanced development, a fair growth strategy and a fair society.



President Lee Jae Myung receives applause during the oath of office inauguration ceremony for the 14th president at the National Assembly in Yeouido, Seoul, on June 4.

“We will create a country where culture blossoms,” Lee said. “We will grow Korea’s cultural industry. By actively supporting culture and the arts, we will become a cultural powerhouse that will rewrite the world standard for content and emerge as a top five global soft power.”

Lee also emphasized his commitment to national unity, saying: “I will be the president who ends the politics of division. Let’s send the old ideologies to the museum of history. I will use Park Chung-hee’s policies and Kim Dae-jung’s policies without distinction if they are necessary and useful.”

Lee characterized his administration as a pragmatic, market-oriented government, saying: “We will not be a government that controls and manages but a government that supports and encourages. We will change regulations to be negative-oriented to ensure creative and proactive business activities.

“We will never allow anyone to profit by breaking the rules or suffer by playing by the rules, such as threatening the life and safety of the people, the legitimate rights of workers, unfairly oppressing the weak and threatening market order through unfair trading, such as stock price manipulation.”

Regarding foreign and security policy, he said: “We will turn the crisis of the global economic and security environment into an opportunity to maximize national interests through pragmatic diplomacy centered around national interests. We will strengthen cooperation between South Korea and Japan based on the strong ROK-US alliance, and approach relations with neighboring countries from the perspective of national interests and pragmatism.”

‘Cultural powerhouse leaping into top 5 position in global soft power’

“We will clearly establish the truth of social tragedies, such as the Sewol

ferry disaster, the Itaewon tragedy and the Osong underpass disaster, and build a safe society where people’s lives and property are not threatened,” Lee said while speaking on the importance of establishing a “safe and peaceful country.”

“With our defense spending at twice North Korea’s GDP, the world’s fifth-largest military force, and a strong deterrent based on the ROK-U.S. military alliance, we will prepare for North Korea’s nuclear weapons and military provocations, but we will also open channels of communication with North Korea and build peace on the Korean Peninsula through dialogue and cooperation,” he added.

“The past has helped the present, and the dead have saved the living,” Lee said, quoting Nobel Prize-winning author Han Kang. “And now it is our turn to become the past of the future and save the descendants of tomorrow.

“We will respond to the solemn command to blossom hope on top of deep wounds and to the fervent desire to build a completely new nation,” he added.

“Let us recognize and respect each other beyond small differences and move forward together toward a country where the people are in charge, a country where the people are happy, and toward a real Korea.” 