

President Lee Jae Myung's national appointment ceremony; 'I will move forward, placing all my trust in the citizens'

Appointment certificates presented by citizen representatives at Gwanghwamun Square 72 days after inauguration; 'It is an immense honor and a great responsibility'
'A nation where the people are in charge, a Republic of Korea where everyone is happy; I will place the people at the center of state affairs'

"As a faithful servant of the sovereign people of the Republic of Korea, I will trust only the people and stride forward toward a nation where the people are in charge and all are happy," President Lee Jae Myung said on Aug. 15.

Lee made these remarks in a "Letter to the People" read aloud at the national appointment ceremony held that evening at Gwanghwamun Square in Seoul on Liberation Day.

"Receiving the letter of appointment, which embodies the earnest wishes of the people, fills me with boundless honor and an immense sense of responsibility," he said.

The National Appointment Ceremony, held 72 days after Lee took office on June 4, served as a substitute for the inauguration ceremony that was omitted due to the government launching immediately after the early presidential election.

The event proceeded in a format where representatives of the people directly presented Lee with the appointment certificate, in accordance with the value of "people's sovereignty."

"Thanks to you who sacrificed your lives to defend the nation, and you who built modernization with your sweat, the Republic of Korea exists as the world's 10th-largest economic power," Lee said. "Whenever national crises have struck, it was because you were there, holding the brightest torch to dispel the darkness, that the democracy forged through blood could breathe again."

Business leaders, including Lee Jae-yong, and ruling party figures, including former President Moon Jae-in, attended en masse

"As our great 80-year modern history proves, the source of



Eighty citizen representatives take the stage at the 21st presidential inauguration ceremony held at Gwanghwamun Square in Seoul on Aug. 15.



President Lee Jae Myung and first lady Kim Hea Kyung express their gratitude after receiving the “Certificate of Light” from 80 citizen representatives at the 21st Presidential Citizen Appointment Ceremony titled “80 Years of Liberation: Building the Future with People’s Sovereignty” held at Gwanghwamun Square on Sejong-daero in Seoul on Aug. 15.

Korea’s national power has always been its people,” Lee continued. “The ‘People’s Sovereignty Government’ will always place the people -- the source of national strength -- at the core of its philosophy and vision for governing.”

Referring to residents of border regions and bereaved families of tragedies, he said, “I will devote all my strength to ensuring our nation blossoms into a peaceful and safe country.” Mentioning the sweat and efforts of cultural figures and aspiring young athletes, he declared, “I will give wings to those dreams.”

He further promised, “We will provide solid support so that entrepreneurs can grow freely and compete confidently on the global stage, and so that scientists and engineers can focus solely on innovation.

“The adversity before us now is unprecedentedly severe, but it is not an insurmountable obstacle,” Lee said. “Let us overcome this crisis with united strength and pass on to our descendants an even more glorious homeland, shining brighter than ever.”

He concluded his speech by stating, “I am infinitely proud to be appointed president of the Republic of Korea, a nation rebuilt by the great Korean people. I am determined to return this pride to the people in the form of joy and happiness.”

‘The strength of the Republic of Korea has always been its people’

On this day, Lee appeared at the event wearing a white tie with blue stripes, while first lady Kim Hea Kyung wore a white two-piece suit.

Presidential spokesperson Kang Yu-jeong explained that the white tie symbolized embracing everything like a blank sheet of paper and signified a fresh start.

The president and first lady stepped out of their vehicle and

walked toward the event venue, waving to citizens holding up their phones to take pictures or clapping their hands in greeting. From the audience, chants of “Lee Jae Myung” could be heard.

Lee then shook hands with former President Moon Jae-in and his wife, and the late former President Roh Moo-hyun’s widow, Kwon Yang-sook, as well as dignitaries that include former National Assembly Speakers Chung Sye-kyun and Moon Hee-sang, former Prime Minister Han Myeong-sook and former Democratic Party leader Lee Hae-chan.

Emphasizing peace, safety, dreams, innovation

He also greeted Democratic Party lawmakers, including Rep. Jung Chung-rae, National Assembly Speaker Woo Won-shik, Chief Justice Cho Hee-dae, Constitutional Court Chief Justice Kim Sang-hwan and National Election Commission Chairman Noh Tae-ak, among other heads of constitutional bodies.

Samsung Electronics Chairman Lee Jae-yong, Hyundai Motor Group Executive Chair Euisun Chung, LG Group Chairman Koo Kwang-mo, Lotte Group Chairman Shin Dong-bin and Shinsegae Group Chairman Chung Yong-jin also visited Gwanghwamun Square to observe the inauguration ceremony.

Notable figures from the cultural and sports sectors were also present, including Bang Si-hyuk, chairman of HYBE; Park Hang-seo, former coach of the Vietnam national football team; and volleyball player Kim Yeon-koung.

However, former presidents Lee Myung-bak and Park Geun-hye, along with families of opposition party former presidents, politicians and local government leaders affiliated with the People Power Party, all declined to attend, citing health reasons or expressing protest against President Lee’s Liberation Day pardons. [\[창\]](#)