

President Lee Jae Myung's commemorative address

Keywords were peace and future

Light was word most frequently used in 5,500-character message; followed by independence, peace, democracy

Foreign policy message also emphasizes dialogue and cooperation; approximately 25 rounds of applause during 25-minute speech

The core keywords running through President Lee Jae Myung's 80th Liberation Day commemorative address were light and peace.

He emphasized that his administration came to power after overcoming martial law and civil disorder while simultaneously focusing on sending a future-oriented message to the international community.

Lee appeared at the commemorative ceremony held at the Sejong Center for the Performing Arts on the morning of Aug. 15 wearing a dark suit and a tie featuring intersecting blue, red and white stripes. This tie design, symbolizing unity, was the same one he wore on special occasions, including his inauguration briefing on June 4. First lady Kim Hea Kyung, who attended with him, wore a white "hanbok."

Lee's speech, lasting approximately 25 minutes, was about 5,500 characters long. Excluding general terms like citizens, government and nation, the word light appeared 19 times in this speech.

In his congratulatory address, the president emphasized, "The light of independence which our ancestors reclaimed, the light of democracy that our people achieved, will serve as a guiding light illuminating our future path."

Following this, the most frequent terms were independence (14 times), peace (12 times), democracy (11 times), future (11 times) and sovereignty (seven times). He highlighted the people's achievements using terms like democratization, democratic nation, democratization movement and democratic republic. In messages directed at external parties like North Korea and Japan, he emphasized cooperation and dialogue, focusing on peace rather than conflict.

The terms freedom and unification, prominent in the previous administration's commemorative addresses, saw a significant decrease in frequency, each appearing only twice. Furthermore, the terms North and northern side were used instead of North Korea. Applause erupted from the audience approximately 25 times during Lee's speech, including when he emphasized the need for proper



President Lee Jae Myung delivers a commemorative address at the 80th Liberation Day celebration held at the Sejong Center for the Performing Arts in Seoul on Aug. 15.

respect for independence activists.

Meanwhile, candidate Ahn Cheol-soo, who is running for the People Power Party leadership, stood up during President Lee's speech and held up a protest placard reading "Oppose pardoning Cho Kuk and Yoon Mi-hyang" in protest.

This year's celebration ceremony was held under the theme "The light we found together illuminates the Republic of Korea." Eighty Taegeukgi flags were displayed on the podium, and 80 descendants of independence activists ascended the stage, adding to the symbolic significance of the 80th anniversary.

Actor Jo Jin-woong, who participated in the repatriation process of General Hong Beom-do's remains, recited the "Oath to the National Flag." Later in the event, scenes from the film "Assassination," which depicts the independence movement and features actors, including Jo Jin-woong and Jeon Ji-hyun, were shown on a large screen.

President Lee personally awarded commendations to five descendants of independence activists, including Kim Jong-min, a descendant of the late Lee Eun-sook, who dedicated herself to restoring national sovereignty in regions like North Jeolla Province. Including them, 311 independence activists received government commendations. 