

The Land Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Adopted at the Seventh Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly of the

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

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Chapter 1

The Land of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a Precious Gain of the Revolution

Article 1. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the land is a precious gain of the revolution that was won by all the peasants under the wise leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea and the people's government through the democratic revolution in pursuance of the great Agrarian Reform Law enforced according to the principle "Farmland to the tillers".

Article 2. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea agrarian reform and the policy of agricultural cooperation have been carried out fully. As a result, feudal land ownership and all forms of exploitation have been eliminated in the rural areas once and for all and socialist land ownership has been fully established.

The State shall endeavor to consolidate and develop the successes achieved by agrarian reform and agricultural cooperation in the northern half of the Republic and to complete the agricultural revolution throughout the whole nation.

Article 3. The land of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is saturated with the blood of our revolutionary forerunners who laid down their lives for agrarian reform and it is bound up with the revolutionary spirit of the people who fought heroically in defense of the country from the imperialist invaders.

The State shall defend the land, the gain of the revolution, against the encroachment of all enemies from within and without.

Article 4. The State shall take the necessary steps to confirm, consolidate and develop by law

the success of agrarian reform and socialist land ownership and to protect and exploit the land for the joint use of the State and society so that the material and technical foundations of socialism are further strengthened and the socialist construction of the country is accelerated to the utmost.

Article 5. The State shall organize and carry out on a long-term basis the work of land conservation, land development and other projects for transforming the land and harnessing nature, according to the master plan for land development.

Article 6. The State shall promote scientific research on exploiting the land, industrializing and modernizing agriculture and, in particular, on improving the land and making better use of it by relying on the foundations of the independent national economy built in our country, and shall train skilled personnel for the purpose under a long-term plan.

Article 7. The State shall classify the land according to its uses as agricultural land, inhabited land, woodland, industrial land, aquatic land and special land and manage them accordingly. Supervision and control of the administration and exploitation of land shall be exercised on a coordinated basis by the land administration offices under the guidance of the people's committees at all levels, the Administration Council and the administrative committees.

Article 8. The land is a precious asset of our people that ensures their livelihood and it is a source of wealth for the country that will ensure its lasting prosperity.

The State shall inculcate socialist patriotism in agricultural workers, officials of state organs and other people so that they protect and manage the land properly and take good care of it.

Chapter II

Land Ownership

Article 9. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the land belongs to the State and to cooperative organizations.

All land in the country is the commons property of the people', and cannot be sold, bought or

appropriated.

Article 10. the land of the State belongs to the entire people.

The State may own land without limit.

Article 11. the land of the cooperative organizations is the collective property of the working people engaged in the cooperative economy.

The State shall protect the land of the cooperative organizations by law.

Article 12. The State shall strengthen and develop the cooperative economic system of socialism, and may, with the development of the agricultural economy, gradually place the land of cooperative organizations under the ownership of the entire people according to the voluntary will of the entire membership of the cooperative organizations.

Article 13. The land of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea may be controlled only by the State and used in various ways by the cooperative farms, organs, enterprises, organizations and citizens in their interests and for the welfare of the people.

The household vegetable plot of each cooperative farmer shall be between 20-30 *pyong* as set out in the Rules of the Cooperative Farm.

Chapter III

The Master Plan for Land Development

Article 14. The master plan for land development is a coordinated, comprehensive, long-term programme for properly developing, using, realigning and enhancing the beauty of the land in accordance with the aims of advancing the national economy and promoting the well-being of the people and for managing the economic life of the nation as a whole on a long-term basis and in a planned way.

The State shall draw up and carry out an ambitious and dynamic master plan for land development to make the country prosperous and to raise the standard of living of the people.

Article 15. The principles that shall be adhered to in drawing up the master plan for land development are as follows:

1. In land development and in the exploitation of resources, arable land shall not be encroached upon, but shall be valued and protected in every way possible;
2. Cities shall not be of too large in size; many small cities shall be built;
3. The climatic and physical features of the different areas of the country shall be taken into consideration;
4. The master plan shall be a scientific one that conforms to the direction of development of the national economy and to the prospects for economic development in different areas of the country.

Article 16. The master plan for land development shall cover a period of between 30-50 years.

This period may be shortened depending on circumstances.

Article 17. The master plan for land development shall include:

1. Measures to improve and preserve old revolutionary battle sites and places associated with the revolutionary history of the country;
2. The orientation of the realignment, improvement and conservation of the land, of the

acquisition of new land and the reclamation of tideland and the measures to be taken accordingly;

3. The orientation of afforestation and measures to preserve and use the forests and to protect all useful animals and plants;
4. The orientation of the construction and readjustment of rivers, lakes and reservoirs, the distribution of installations for preventing flooding, and measures for the various ways in which water is used;
5. The proper distribution of transport, power and communication networks and their facilities;
6. The areas identified for tapping mineral resources and the location and size of industrial and agricultural enterprises;
7. The location and size of towns, villages, recreation centers and sanatoria, and measures to preserve beauty spots, natural monuments, cultural relics and remains;
8. The orientation of the comprehensive development and exploitation of coastal areas and territorial waters, and measures to enhance the beauty of coastal areas and protect marine resources;
9. Measures to prevent pollution.

Article 18. The master plans for the development of the land in the country as a whole and in the major regions shall be approved by the Supreme People's Assembly or by the Central People's Committee, and local plans for land development, by the provincial people's assemblies or by the provincial people's committees.

Chapter IV

Land Conservation

Article 19. the State shall carry out land conservation projects including river improvement and afforestation work to prevent the loss of land, increase the material wealth of the country and promote the well-being of the people.

The land administration offices, agricultural guidance institutions and land exploitation agencies should be responsible for organizing and undertaking land conservation work according to the master plan for land development.

Article 20. River improvement projects are important for protecting the cultivated land and other valuable assets of the country from flooding and for changing the appearance of the land.

The State shall conduct construction work on rivers simultaneously with irrigation projects, in keeping with the natural and geographical conditions and features of the areas concerned, and at the same time continue to improve the major rivers as well as lesser waterways.

Article 21. The land administration offices and agricultural guidance institutions should organize and carry out river improvement projects in a planned way and on a long-term basis according to designs.

The improvement and administration of major and important rivers shall be undertaken by the land administration offices, and the improvement of lesser waterways by the institutions, enterprises and cooperative farms concerned.

River improvement should be undertaken by concentrating efforts primarily on the major industrial areas and residential districts that suffer greatly from flooding, and on areas with large tracts of arable land to be protected.

Article 22. The land administration offices, local government organs and the institutions, enterprises and cooperative farms concerned should investigate and register in detail any changes in the rivers under their supervision, the condition of the dykes and installations on

them over the period designated by the State every year and take any measures they deem appropriate.

Article 23. The land administration offices should establish a coordinated system of repairing and administering the rivers, and increase the role of the enterprises that specialize in the repair and administration of them in order to put this work onto a professional and scientific basis.

The public security organs should regularly inspect the technical condition of the rivers and dykes and take any measures they deem appropriate.

Article 25. The land administration offices shall set up conservation areas where necessary, in order to protect the rivers, lakes, reservoirs, dykes and other structures.

In these areas such acts as damaging river dykes and other structures or hindering their conservation and management are prohibited.

Article 26. It is prohibited to let unpurified sewage flow into rivers, lakes and reservoirs, or to empty uncleaned toxic material and dirt into them.

Article 27. The land administration offices, agricultural guidance institutions and local administrative organs should draw up plans for the comprehensive exploitation of the rivers and see to it that diverse and effective use is made of water for irrigation, generating electricity, for industry, drinking, river transport, breeding freshwater fish, rafting and other purposes for the benefit of the national economy and for the cultural recreation of the working people.

Article 28. The agricultural guidance institutions and the enterprises concerned should make drainage facilities as good as possible in the areas where fields are liable to be submerged in water, and regularly organize and conduct the work of repairing and maintaining them.

Article 29. The state and cooperative farms should plant willows or build stone walls at the edges of riverside fields and dig channeling ditches around dry fields on mountain slopes in order to prevent the loss of land.

Article 30. Afforestation is a great and far-sighted project for harnessing nature to conserve the land, make the country rich and powerful and ensure prosperity for generations to come.

The State shall arrange and carry out afforestation on a long-term basis to prevent the loss of land and to increase the natural resources of the country.

Article 31. The land administration offices and the institutions, enterprises and organizations concerned should change the nature of the forests by planting wood-pulp trees, oil-bearing trees, fiber-giving trees, fruit trees and trees for firewood according to the plans in keeping with the natural and economic conditions of the given areas, and should increase the productivity of forests by planting fast-growing and useful species and planting them closely and by creating mixed forests of coniferous and broad-leaved trees. The forestry planning organizations should draw up plans for this.

Article 32. The land administration offices shall mark out definite areas for the institutions, enterprises, schools and organizations to tend, in order to make the masses as a whole responsible for afforestation and forest conservation work.

The institutions, enterprises, schools organizations and citizens should take an active part in spring and autumn tree planting, conserve the forests properly and take good care of them and turn the mountains throughout the country into a paradise of greenery.

Article 33. The State shall mark out forests for the timber industry and forests in the charge of institutions and enterprises in order to build up reliable timber production bases and meet the needs of the institutions and enterprises for timber.

The institutions and enterprises concerned should build up forests in these areas according to a plan, take good care of them and establish solid timber production bases.

Article 34. The State shall mark out forests in the charge of cooperative farms as well as groves of firewood in order to surround the farm villages with densely wooded hills and to meet the needs of the cooperative farms for timber and firewood. The Cooperative farms shall establish forests in these areas, conserve and look after them, while making free use of them.

Article 35. The land administration offices and other institutions, enterprises and organizations shall set up tree nurseries and give priority to growing saplings in compliance with the long-term plans for afforestation.

The tree nurseries should produce a large quantity of fast-growing saplings which are of great value to the national economy.

Article 36. Forests should be used with fore-sight and in a planned way to meet the requirements of the development of the national economy and the improvement of the standard of living of the people.

In felling mountain trees permission should be obtained from the land administration offices and the authorities concerned beforehand, and then old, fully-grown and damaged trees should be cut down first and thus felling in rotation will be ensured.

Trees should be planted without delay in clearings as well as on the paths along which logs used to be hauled.

Article 37. The State shall set up special forestry reserves in order to conserve the forests in regions where there are revolutionary battle sites and places associated with the revolutionary history of the country.

Nature conservation forestry reserves may be set up for scientific research on forests.

Tree felling is prohibited in special and nature conservation forestry reserves.

Article 39. The land administration offices should organize and conduct any work that is necessary such as treating the forests promptly and protecting and multiplying animals that eat harmful insects, so as to prevent damage to the forests by disease, pine caterpillars and other harmful insects.

Article 40. The land administration offices, agricultural guidance institutions and other organs and enterprises concerned should protect the land against natural disaster and enhance the beauty of the country by creating shelter belts, anti-erosion woods, woods for recreation and scenic beauty and forests to safeguard watersheds and by building anti-erosion and

landslide control structures, in keeping with the topographical features of the specific locality.

Article 41. The institutions, enterprises and organizations engaged in the development of mineral resources should first set up waste dumps and ore-residue settling basins to avoid causing damage to the land, including cultivated areas, in the course of exploiting mineral resources, and should take care to prevent cave-ins occasioned by mine workings beneath farmland, buildings or establishments.

Article 42. At coal and ore mines the areas where waste and removed earth have been dumped and where mining excavation has been undertaken should be leveled out quickly so that crops can be raised or trees planted there.

Chapter V

Land Development

Article 43. The State shall use foresight in organizing and conducting the work of land development to hasten the industrialization and modernization of agriculture, to increase agricultural production and change the appearance of the land.

The land administration offices, agricultural guidance institutions and other organs, enterprises and organizations concerned should carry out land development on a planned basis in accordance with the master plan for land development.

Article 44. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the great task of paddy-field irrigation has been carried out successfully.

The State shall complete the non-paddy-field irrigation system while consolidating and developing the paddy-field irrigation system.

Article 45. The land administration offices, agricultural guidance institutions and other organs, enterprises and cooperative farms concerned should, in accordance with the master plan for land development, build reservoirs and complete and strengthen their dams and take measures to use groundwater so as to secure a better supply of water, and should repair the irrigation apparatus regularly to prevent the loss of water through leakage.

Article 46. Land realignment is an important undertaking for obtaining large tracts of new land, increasing grain production and achieving the comprehensive mechanization of and comprehensive use of chemicals in agriculture.

The agricultural guidance institutions, the state and cooperative farms and other organs, enterprises and organizations concerned should continue with land realignment under annual plans and according to designs.

Article 47. In realigning the land the agricultural guidance institutions, state and cooperative farms and other organs, enterprises and organizations concerned should move buildings and installations to the foot of mountains methodically, remove unnecessary ridges between paddy

fields and between non-paddy fields, lay out wide and standard plots, and build irrigation and drainage channels and field paths accordingly.

Article 48. Increasing soil fertility is an important guarantee for increasing grain production.

The country agricultural guidance institutions and the organs, enterprises and organizations including the state and cooperative farms that work on the land, should examine soil regularly, analyze the fertility of the soil at various depths and take samples of each layer of soil and draw up land registers and tables of these analyses for each plot and carry out land improvement on a scientific basis.

Article 49. The construction of terraced fields is an important way of increasing the crop yield.

The cooperative farms and the organs, enterprises and organizations concerned should terrace sloping fields, build irrigation and draining systems there and take positive measures for mechanizing haulage.

Article 50. The state shall direct a major effort towards tideland reclamation which will increase the area of arable land and make a great change to the appearance of the land.

The agricultural guidance institutions and other organs, enterprises and organizations concerned should carry out the intensive reclamation of tideland firstly in those areas where the natural and geographical conditions are favorable and suitable for such work.

In the reclaimed tideland, percolation irrigation, chemical methods and so forth should be introduced, and fresh water supplied, to aid the rapid removal of salt, so that crops can be planted.

Article 51. The agricultural guidance institutions and other organs, enterprises and organizations concerned should build tidewater control dykes along the coasts in keeping with the topographical features of the specific locality and maintain and strengthen them, in order to prevent any possible damage to the cultivated land and salt fields by tidal water.

Article 52. The State shall build modern, well-appointed towns and villages to improve the

living conditions of the people.

The local administrative committees, the city management offices and other organs, enterprises and organizations concerned should lay out houses, cultural and welfare establishments and roads in towns and villages to meet the requirements of the modern, socialist way of life, and should build towns and villages in such a way as to narrow the distinction between town and country and make the development of all parts of the country uniform with regard to politics, the economy and culture.

Article 53. the city management offices should build fine parks, pleasure grounds and other cultural recreation areas for the working people in various parts of the cities and their suburbs and plant flowers and tree everywhere to create pleasant surroundings for the population.

The agricultural guidance institutions and cooperative farms should plant fruit, oil-bearing and other kinds of trees in and around the villages to make them more beautiful.

Article 54. The local administrative committees should exercise control to prevent cities and villages becoming littered or polluted.

The organs, enterprises and organizations engaged in the construction of buildings and establishments should clear up the sites on completion of the construction work or of the excavation of building materials.

Article 55. Roads represent one of the important component arteries of the national economy and a main indication of the economic development of a nation.

The State shall build and manage roads on the principle of ensuring smooth political, economic and cultural links between all regions of the country and promoting the well-being of the people.

Article 56. Roads shall be classified into motorways and six other grades according to their scale and usage.

The building of roads and their protection and management shall be undertaken by the land administration offices, city management offices and other organs, enterprises and cooperative

farms concerned according to the grade and usage of the road.

Article 57. All the roads in the country should be paved with cement, asphalt or stone to strengthen their surface, the technical condition of all roads should be constantly improved; and the safety and speed of the traffic and the modernity of the roads should be ensured.

Article 58. The road administration offices should put up good warning, indication, prohibition, mileage and other road signs, plant fruit trees and strong, fast-growing useful trees, lay out green verges and flower beds and set up resting places along the roadsides, thereby keeping the roads in good order.

Article 59. The land administration offices, the local administrative committees and the city management offices should accurately survey and ascertain any change in the volume of traffic according to the season, route and section, and regularly repair and adjust the roads, bridges and other structures and installations according to a plan and allot certain sections of each road to organs, enterprises and organizations as their responsibility to protect and maintain.

Article 60. The organs, enterprises, organizations and citizens are prohibited from taking any measure that is liable to hinder the protection and management of roads such as damaging the roads and their structures and installations or cutting down roadside trees without prior permission.

Article 61. The State shall promote the development of coastal and territorial waters, such as developing and adjusting these waters, building or extending harbors and opening waterways, thus making the country rich and strong and developing water transport.

The administration offices for coastal and territorial waters and other organs, enterprises and organizations concerned should, according to the master plan for land development, organize and conduct the development of coastal and territorial waters on a long-term basis, regularly maintain and repair the installations in coastal and territorial waters and make the seashore more beautiful.

Article 62. The administration offices for coastal and territorial waters and other organs, enterprises and organizations concerned should control and conduct the work of protecting and increasing marine resources in coastal and territorial waters on a long-term basis and in a planned way.

Chapter VI

Land Administration

Article 63. The improvement of land administration is an important requirement for thoroughly protecting the land and using agricultural land effectively as required by the Juche farming method.

Cooperative farms and all the organs, enterprises and organizations that work on the land should strictly adhere to a system and order in using the land.

Article 64. Agricultural land comprises only arable land.

Agricultural land shall be managed by the agricultural guidance institutions and by the cooperative farms, organs, enterprises and organizations that use it.

Article 65. It is prohibited to leave cultivated fields idle or abandoned without prior permission.

When wishing to leave them idle or abandon them or use them for purposes other than agricultural production, permission should be obtained from the relevant land administration offices according to the size and specification of the area involved and thereafter the approval of the central agricultural guidance office or the Administration Council.

With regard to this article, the land to make up for the land thus used may be recovered under the state plan.

Article 66. When cultivated fields are to be used for purposes other than agricultural production, permission should be obtained, taking into account the area of land involved in the given year.

When the organs, enterprises and organizations which have been using cultivated fields for purposes other than agricultural production no longer have any need of them, they should prepare them for crop cultivation and return them to the farms concerned before the following sowing season.

Article 67. When an organ, an enterprise or an organization wishes to use cultivated land for sideline production, it should obtain the approval of the Administration Council, and when it wants to change the category of the land, it should obtain the permission of the central agricultural guidance office.

Article 68. Cooperative farms may exchange fields if it is more convenient for cultivation. In this case they should obtain the permission of the higher agricultural guidance office concerned.

Article 69. Inhabited land comprises built-up areas in cities, county towns and workers' settlements and the adjacent land, the land for public use, built-up areas in the countryside. Inhabited land shall be managed by the central city management office and the local administrative committees.

When an organ, an enterprise or an organization wishes to use inhabited land, it should obtain the permission of the relevant provincial administrative committee or the Administration Council.

Article 70. Woodland comprises the mountains and fields which have been or are to be planted with forests and the plots within them used for various purposes.

Woodland shall be managed by the land administration offices and the organs, enterprises and organizations that use it.

When an organ, an enterprise or an organization wishes to use woodland, it should obtain the permission of the Administration Council or the relevant land administration office.

Article 71. The land administration offices should exercise supervision and control to prevent the organs, enterprises, organizations and citizens from felling trees without due attention or

burning down forests to create fields.

Article 72. Industrial land comprises the land occupied by factories, ore and coal mines, power stations and other industrial establishments and the adjacent land.

Industrial land shall be administered by the organs and enterprises using it.

Article 73. The organs and enterprises administering industrial land should not waste land by marking out a greater area than required by the factories, enterprises and other industrial establishments, and shall strictly protect and take care of industrial land.

Article 74. Aquatic land comprises the specific area of land occupied by coastal and territorial waters, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, irrigation canals and the like.

Aquatic land shall be administered by the land administration offices or by the agricultural guidance institutions as may be appropriate.

When an organ, an enterprise or an organization wishes to develop and use aquatic land or to set up installations on it, it should obtain the permission of the Administration Council or the land administration offices as circumstances may dictate.

Article 75. Special land comprises the land used for special purposes, such as old revolutionary battle sites, places associated with the revolutionary history of the country, places of cultural interest, reserves, and land for military use.

Special land shall be administered by the central organ concerned, local administrative committees and the organs, enterprises and arm units using it.

Article 76 The authorities which have given permission to use land may withdraw it whenever the needs of the state demand it.

Article 77. The land administration offices should assume coordinated control over all the land in the country and register it, and exercise supervision and control so that the order established may be strictly maintained in the administration and use of land and so that land may be used in a far-sighted way according to the master plan for land development.

Article 78. The agricultural guidance institutions should register without delay the land that

has been recently reclaimed and the land obtained through land realignment, and the organs, enterprises and organizations using the land should inform the authorities concerned promptly of any change in the land situation.

Article 79. The agricultural guidance institutions, the state and cooperative farms and other organs concerned should keep the land well-documented and maintain the files properly.

Article 80. it is the sacred duty of all the people, agricultural workers and state organs to treasure and take good care of the land. All the people, agricultural workers and officials of state organs should assume the attitude of masters in conserving, developing and managing the land.

In the event of the established order being broken in the conservation, development and administration of the land, the organs, enterprises, organizations and citizens to blame shall be held fully responsible by law.