

FOR THE SAKE OF NATION

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The head of Republic Nursultan Nazarbayev proclaimed five institutional public programmes under the name “Plan of the nation: 100 certain steps for raising the quality of life for all citizens”.

He places emphasis on educating the youth in the spirit of patriotism, as it is impossible to join the ranks of 30 most developed countries in the world without patriots having immense love for their land.

Even hard times could not make the wise nation neglect its rising generation.

For many centuries the Kazakh people had been passing on their country and land to their descendants, guarding it with their lives, preserving love for native land, language, traditions, religion, and customs. It is an apotheosis of Kazakh spirit.

Turning over the leaves of history, one can make sure that the fate of our nation has been harsh, it has overcome multiple obstacles and undergone hardships.

The 550-year old Kazakh khanate had existed as a sovereign state before it became a part of the Russian Empire.

It had depended itself for the sake of preserving its nation, but it had never attacked. Such are the facts.

From 1731 till 1986 the country had been under the oppression of Russia. About 700 national liberation uprisings took place over this period. In the past century the nation had been subjected to demographic catastrophes. Except for the fallen in liberation wars, in 1931-1933 49% of Kazakhs died by starvation, more than a million and a half people migrated to other countries. In

the first half of XX century the Kazakhs lost about 5 million of their people. It was an irretrievable loss, an awful national calamity.

Excluding German and Japanese captives, about 7 million people from foreign lands had settled in our country in the period of 1870-1970. In accordance with Russia's population census of 1897, the number of Kazakhs reached 81,7% of the total population, while census held in the period of N.Khrushchev's rule showed that Kazakh population reached only 29% of the total population.

Kazakhs as a nation had been on the verge of extinction. Those were the true colours of "wise" Leninist policy which inspired poets, composers and authors of slogans.

Still, it was not the end of peoples' calamities. Kazakhstan, being the ninth biggest country in the world, became a site for testing nuclear and biological weapons. The tests not only upset the ecological balance, but also weakened the nation's gene pool and impoverished soil. The tests which had been carried out at Semipalatinsk nuclear test site from 29 August 1949 till 29 August 1991 were terminated only after promulgation of Nursultan Nazarbayev's decree.

After dissolution of the empire our country entered the path of independent development, restoring its traditions, rites, and culture.

There remain some unsolved problems in this sphere. The "Mangilik El" idea is to become nation-wide; as it was the dream of our ancestors who had originated from ancient Turks; this is the pivot of Kazakhstani patriotism and the plan of joining ranks of the 30 most developed countries in the world.

What is patriotism? Undoubtedly it is the love for parents who gave you life, and the love for Motherland which embodies mother.

Legendary hero Bauyrzhan Momyshuly said, "Motherland is hotter than fire".

Kazakhstani patriotism is a main driving force on the path of the country's development. In the epoch of globalization you should be more than just highly qualified specialist. You should be civilized, spiritually developed, and devoted patriot of your land.

Our devotion to Motherland has been expressed not by proverbs and sayings solely. Accumulated experience of protecting our own rights and bitter lessons taught by the struggle for independence represent our heritage as well.

Kazakh people have been an international nation from the time immemorial. Following words had been prepared for those having lust for power, "It is a bad house where a guest is a master", or "Let's take a look at shanyrak" [behave properly, as this is not your house].

Kazakh proverbs also mention those who, having lived in the country over several decades became "sultans" in foreign lands and got engaged in political mongering; and about those countrymen who have separatist views and talk nonsense about our borders and Kazakhs' history.

When it concerns consolidation of people in any country, national language is of special importance. At the moment of declaration of independence, Kazakh population in the country numbered 6,8 million, which was 41% of the total population. Today the number of Kazakhs reaches 11 million, which is 65% of the total Kazakhstani population. The head of state noted that when Kazakh language really reaches the level of a state language, our country will be called Kazakh eli. This problem became even more urgent due to the events in Ukraine and global political environment.

In the years of independence we have made a great progress in educational sphere. Still, all the reforms have embraced only education itself, while the problem of moulding specialist's personality has been neglected.

We started forgetting traditions and customs of the wise Kazakh nation; our customs have deeply philosophic concepts, concerning patriotic, esthetic and ethnical education of the youth. It is unfortunate that such canons as “Elders should be treated with respect, the younger with care, and parents with gratitude” are being gradually effaced from memory.

Some young people not only forget about their duty to parents, but also send them to nursing homes, treat them with disrespect; we have witnessed such cases.

Kazakh eli is a confessional and multifaith state. State constitution guarantees freedom of faith. Religions play major role in states’ development. That is why the Head of State, Nursultan Nazarbayev, always takes notice of this problem in his Messages. He particularly noted that fictitious religious trends became an acute problem of the modern world.

Having cited Kazakh traditions and customs as an example, he focused on a problem of hijab wearing more than once, as it contradicts all Kazakh customs and traditions which have been established over many centuries. The Leader of the Nation recommends reading classics and watching philosophical movies.

Kazakh nation has always treated its daughters with respect, protecting them and giving special attention to their education. We are proud of Zarina and Tomiris, tsarevnas of the unified Saka tribes; Kenesary khan’s sister, Bopay; Heroes of the Soviet Union, Aliya and Manshuk; and the girls who dared to oppose the totalitarian regime in December 1986. Their number is infinite.

We remember all of them.

The current year is a special one; it is abundant in historical anniversaries’ dates.

The Kazakh khanate, whose foundation had been laid by the sons of Kazakh nation, Kerey and Zhanibek, is 550 years old. The Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the rightful successor to Kasym, Yesim, and Tauke khans’ Code of Laws turned 20 years. The Assembly of

People of Kazakhstan which plays a major role in the cause of peoples' solidarity, is 20 years old.

The 70th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic war is another special date in history of Kazakh nation. We should not forget that we have been raising generations through preservation of memory. The fate of our independence is in the hands of the youth.

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