

**Address to the Nation by
Acting President and Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn
on the Passing of a Presidential Impeachment Motion**

December 9, 2016

Fellow Koreans,

I stand here with a truly heavy heart and many regrets. Today, the National Assembly passed a motion to impeach the President. As someone who has been supporting the President, I feel a profound sense of responsibility for what has transpired. I apologize to the people with all my heart.

Currently, we are faced with many difficulties in and outside the country. There are many concerns that a string of recent developments is weakening the driving force behind state affairs. In this grave situation at the national level, there should not be the slightest drift or any vacuum in state affairs.

At this critical juncture, I will solemnly assume my duties as acting President as stipulated in the Constitution. I will also put every ounce of my energy into bringing state affairs under stable management no matter how difficult the situation may be. Together with all the members of the Cabinet and everyone in the civil service, I will carry out my responsibilities and roles in managing government affairs to the best of my ability, thinking of nothing other than the people and the nation. Humbly upholding the will of the people, I will run state affairs in a correct and transparent manner.

Above all, the Government will strive to maintain rock-solid security readiness. Again this year, North Korea has continued its nuclear tests and missile provocations in order to enhance their sophistication. While retaining a watertight national defense posture, the Government will work closely with the international community to thoroughly respond to the North Korean nuclear problem. The Government will make all-out endeavors to safeguard the nation's security.

The Government will ensure that diplomatic policies are carried out without a setback. A new administration will soon be launched in the United States, and as such, the global situation is changing rapidly. By actively responding to these changes, the Government will strive to protect national interests, including the enhancement of cooperative ties with friendly nations such as the Korea-U.S. alliance.

To begin with, the Government will endeavor to stabilize financial and foreign exchange markets and maintain Korea's sovereign rating. To this end, the current emergency response framework for the economy will be further strengthened, which will allow us to actively respond to various risk factors and swiftly deal with changes in the situation.

The Government will do its best to revitalize the stagnant economy under all circumstances and create more job opportunities. In addition, the Government will channel all of its energy into micromanaging measures needed to stabilize the everyday lives of less privileged citizens and enhance public safety so that you will be able to feel their actual impact.

Fellow Koreans,

I could recently see the future of a matured Republic of Korea in the sight of the people expressing their opinions in a democratic way through peaceful demonstrations and in other ways. The Government will carefully listen to the voices of the public and reflect them in state affairs as much as possible. Now I earnestly and humbly ask all of you to unite so that the voices on the streets can be sublimated into the driving force behind the effort to overcome the current national crisis.

I ask the both ruling and opposition parties and the National Assembly to combine your strength and wisdom so that the country and the people can regain stability as soon as possible. The Government will closely communicate with the National Assembly and do its best to stabilize state affairs along with promoting national security, reviving the economy and solving the challenges faced by the people in their everyday lives.

A sense of calling and dedication by the public servants is especially important in this critical time. I hope all the civil servants will be able to faithfully carry out their duties with renewed commitment in the understanding that they only serve the people.

Fellow citizens,

Now the world is scrutinizing the Republic of Korea. So far, we have wisely overcome many crises and much confusion, including during the Asian financial crisis, the global financial crisis and various social conflicts. Please join forces

once again to prevail over internal and external crises. I sincerely ask for your active cooperation and support so that state affairs can be managed without disruption.

Thank you very much.