

REMARKS ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

BY MR. SYLVESTRE RADEGONDE, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

WEDNESDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2023

- Vice President of the Republic of Seychelles, Mr. Ahmed Afif and Mrs. Stella Afif
- Chargé d'Affaires of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Seychelles, Mr. MU Jianfeng
- Speaker of the National Assembly
- Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
- Designated Minister
- Colleagues Ministers
- Leader of Government Business in the National Assembly
- Leader of the Opposition
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps
- Attorney General
- Commissioner of Police
- Chief of Defence Forces
- Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
- Members of the National Assembly
- Former Vice President of the Republic of Seychelles, Mr. Vincent Meriton
- Secretary General of the Seychelles National Institute for Culture, Heritage and the Arts
- Distinguished Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a pleasure to join you this evening to celebrate the 74th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

On behalf of President Wavel Ramkalawan, the Government, and the people of Seychelles, I extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to H.E. President XI Jinping, to the Government and to the people of the People's Republic of China. We also join with the Chinese community living and working alongside us here in Seychelles to mark this auspicious occasion.

China's National Day is an affirmation of the rich history, remarkable achievements and enduring spirit of the Chinese nation. It is a day of pride and celebration, not only for the people of China but also for friends and partners around the world who admire and respect China's journey of progress and development.

Seychelles and China share a long-standing friendship, which has grown stronger over the years. Our bilateral ties are built on mutual trust, respect, and a shared vision for a better future. China has been a steadfast partner in our development endeavours, offering valuable support and assistance in various fields. The cooperation between our two nations has yielded tangible results, contributing to the improvement of the lives of our people.

Our partnership, which spans several decades, encompasses diverse sectors, including capacity-building, healthcare, and infrastructure, to name but a few.

Capacity building has been a key component of the Seychelles-China cooperation since our independence. Many Seychellois have benefitted, and continue to benefit, from both long-term scholarships and short-term trainings offered by the Chinese Government. Seven young Seychellois have been accepted this year to pursue their university studies in China. Earlier in May, eight teachers from the technical and vocational education sector embarked on a transformative three-month training program at Chinese institutions. This was followed by a second cohort of teachers at the beginning of this month.

We are also happy to note that after the COVID-19 pandemic, trainings for the Seychelles Defence Forces are resuming, with two military personnels expected to leave for China this year.

Our partnership extends beyond education. It also encompasses our joint responsibility towards maritime security. Seychelles and China, both understanding the significance of this task, have taken substantial measures to strengthen the Seychelles Coast Guard through targeted training and the provision of essential technical resources.

In the area of healthcare, China has provided much-needed support to Seychelles, generously donating state-of-the-art medical equipment and sharing invaluable medical expertise, especially through the deputation of Chinese medical specialists in such fields as cardiology, radiology, and orthopaedics.

I must also mention the Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation House project, financed by a grant from China. This state-of-the-art broadcasting facility stands as an encouragement and opportunity for our journalists, and a crucial support for our ever-evolving media landscape.

The Seychelles Police Force has recently received a consignment of digital forensic equipment from China to enhance the proficiency and ability of the Police Department. Forensic experts from China will be coming to Seychelles this year to set up the equipment and provide appropriate training.

These are but just a few examples that testify to the enduring friendship and cooperation between our two countries. There are many, many more.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

China's impressive economic growth and its remarkable achievements in poverty alleviation serve as an inspiration to many countries, including Seychelles. The Belt and Road Initiative, with its focus on connectivity, collaboration, and mutual benefits, has opened up new opportunities for cooperation and development. Seychelles fully supports and actively participates in this visionary initiative, which has the potential to generate significant economic and social benefits for all participating countries. In this

regard, we very much look forward to our participation in the Third Belt and Road Initiative Forum for International Cooperation next month in Beijing.

China's global presence, support and friendship resonate not just in Seychelles but across the world, not least in Africa. China is actively investing in numerous countries and significantly increasing its provision of development aid, particularly to countries in Africa. In the coming year, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) promises to be yet another significant event that will further deepen the partnership between China and the African continent. China's commitment to Africa's development and prosperity is resolute, and FOCAC serves as a testament to this dedication.

In recent years, China has also emerged as a global leader in technological innovation, renewable energy, and environmental conservation. Seychelles acknowledges China's efforts in addressing climate change and promoting sustainable development.

As we commemorate China's National Day, it is crucial to acknowledge the significant role that China plays in promoting international cooperation, multilateralism, and global peace. China's active engagement in regional and international fora, such as the United Nations, reflects its commitment to upholding the principles of equality, dialogue, and respect for sovereignty. In this context, the Seychelles Government reaffirms its unwavering support for the One China Policy which serves as a cornerstone of peace, stability, and constructive engagement in the international community.

In conclusion, as we join China in celebrating its National Day, we reaffirm our commitment to further strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Seychelles and China. May this occasion serve as a reminder of the shared values and aspirations that unite our two countries. May our partnership continue to flourish, and may our shared journey be marked by ever-greater prosperity, cooperation and goodwill.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

May I now ask you to join me in a toast to the good health and prosperity of His Excellency President Xi Jinping, and to the enduring ties of friendship and cooperation between Seychelles and China.