

**TOAST BY MINISTER SYLVESTRE RADEGONDE ON THE OCCASION OF THE
76TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF
CHINA**

**16TH SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 18:00 HRS
PANDA HOUSE, SANS SOUCIS**

Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China, Her Excellency Ms. LIN Nan
President of the Republic and First Lady
Vice President and Mrs. Afif
Speaker of the National Assembly & Mrs Mancienne
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
President of the Court of Appeal and Mrs Fernando
Colleague Ministers
Leader of the Opposition
Leader of Government Business in the National Assembly
Dean and Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Commissioner of Police
Chief of Defence Forces
Members of the National Assembly
Former Vice President of the Republic of Seychelles
Distinguished Guests

It is a pleasure to address you this evening as we mark the 76th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China. On behalf of President Wavel Ramkalawan, the Government and the people of Seychelles, I extend our warmest congratulations to President Xi Jinping, the Government and the people of China on this important occasion. I also convey special greetings to the Seychellois of Chinese descent and the Chinese community in Seychelles, whose dedication and contribution have further strengthened the ties of friendship and understanding between our peoples.

For nearly five decades, Seychelles and China have shared a partnership based on trust, mutual respect and common aspirations. This relationship has never been one-dimensional, nor is it a relationship of convenience. It has grown into a dynamic and resilient partnership that continues to deliver tangible benefits to both our nations.

Chinese support has contributed to progress in vital sectors of our society. Infrastructure projects—from housing and public facilities to the recent handover of the new SBC House—stand as visible symbols of this cooperation. In healthcare, Chinese medical teams working side by side with Seychellois professionals have improved the quality of services available to our citizens. In education, scholarships and training opportunities offered by China have empowered Seychellois youth with the skills, knowledge and confidence to take on leadership roles in shaping our country’s future.

Equally important are the cultural and people-to-people exchanges that enrich our partnership. The Confucius Institute continues to promote language and cultural understanding, while events such as the Chinese Film Festival and high-level exchanges nurture goodwill. This year, the launch of seasonal direct flights between Mahé and Chengdu, together with the new Sister City agreement between Victoria and Chengdu, represent milestones that will strengthen not only our cultural ties but also trade, tourism and investment.

In the field of security, China has been a reliable partner. The recent handover of the patrol vessel *Andromache* is a clear demonstration of this. It significantly boosts our capacity to safeguard our maritime domain, secure our fisheries, and contribute to regional stability. For a small island state like Seychelles, dependent on the ocean for our livelihoods, this support is invaluable.

Since our bilateral relations were elevated to a strategic partnership last year, new momentum has been injected into our cooperation. Anchored in initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative and the Forum on China–Africa Cooperation, our partnership reflects a forward-looking vision. Together, we are creating opportunities for sustainable growth, connectivity and innovation, while also addressing the pressing global challenges of security threats, humanitarian crises and climate change.

As a small island developing state, Seychelles is on the frontline of the climate emergency. Rising seas, shifting weather patterns and ocean degradation threaten our very survival. In China, we have found not only a development partner but also a global ally that recognises the urgency of the climate agenda. Through platforms such as the United Nations, Seychelles and China continue to champion international cooperation as the only way to find fair and lasting solutions to the challenges we face.

Looking ahead, Seychelles remains committed to working with China to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and to pursue a future rooted in education, innovation, sustainability and solidarity. We believe our partnership demonstrates how countries—big and small—can unite to transform challenges into opportunities and ensure a more equitable and resilient future for all.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our world today faces growing division and uncertainty. Multilateralism is under strain, and too often, competition overshadows cooperation. Yet the partnership between Seychelles and China sends a powerful message: cooperation is possible, and it is essential. It shows that size does not determine the value of a country's contribution—what matters is the sincerity of its commitment to peace, progress and shared humanity.

This is the spirit we must carry forward: to build bridges, not walls; to foster trust, not suspicion; and to place collaboration before rivalry.

It is in this same spirit that we recognise the efforts of those who work tirelessly to nurture and strengthen our partnership on a daily basis. Their commitment ensures that our friendship is not only celebrated on occasions such as this, but lived and reinforced in practical ways every day.

Finally, I wish to thank Her Excellency Ambassador LIN Nan and her team for their warm hospitality extended to us tonight, and for their tireless efforts in strengthening the bonds between our two countries.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please join me in a toast:

To the health of His Excellency President XI Jinping;

To the enduring friendship and cooperation between Seychelles and China;

And to the continued prosperity of the Chinese people.

Xie Xie. Thank you.