

**ADDRESS BY H.E. REN XIAOPING**  
**AT THE NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION OF**  
**THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF**  
**THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

Honorable Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Speaker of the National Assembly and Mrs. Guriras

Honorable Joël Kaapanda, Minister of Information and Communication Technology, and acting Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Honorable Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Members of Parliament, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Members of the media,

Distinguished invited guests,

My fellow Chinese compatriots,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening and welcome!

I first of all want to thank you all very much for joining us to mark this very special day, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Oct. 1, that is the day after tomorrow, will be an exciting and joyful day for the whole Chinese nation. Beijing will be holding a grand parade celebration. 1.3 billion people in China and many more from across the world will be watching the celebration through satellite. Namibia's Founding President Dr. Sam Nujoma is right now in Beijing as an invited guest to participate in the celebration.

This wonderful day allows me to reflect how far we have gone since 60 years ago. On October 1, 1949, the People's Republic of China was founded. This event called an end to the long sufferings of the Chinese people under the semi-colonial and semi-feudal rule and ushered in a new era of the Chinese nation, one of the oldest civilizations in the world. This is a historic moment for the Chinese people of all ethnic groups who have since stood up and put

their destinies in their own hands. From this day, the Chinese people are, under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, united as one to start the noble mission to rejuvenate our motherland.

In the past 60 years, while we have firmly maintained our national sovereignty and territorial integrity, we have explored arduously for the right course of development. China went through the joy of independence and the hard-won self-reliance, but also the frustrations of isolation and economic stagnation. Then we realized that economic development is the key to the revival of our nation, and the success of a country must be proved by whether its people's livelihood is improving. So, in 1978, China began to embark on a new journey of transformation. China opened itself up to the rest of the world and started all-round reform.

30 years of opening-up and reform have brought in phenomenal economic growth and social progress in China. Through institutional reform, we were able to turn a highly centralized economy into a vigorous socialist market economy where the market plays a primary role in allocating resources under macro-regulation of the government. This reform has unleashed unimaginable power of productive forces, which has created economic miracles and brought about the fastest increase in the income of people both in the cities and in rural areas.

We have carried out political reform, promoted democracy and government transparency, and improved the legal system. Our endeavor to build a socialist country under the rule of law which aims to protect the democratic rights of the people and promote stability, harmony and prosperity across the land has won full support of our people and has achieved remarkable success.

The return of Hongkong and Macao to China in 1997 and 1999, and their continuous prosperity speak well for the "one country, two systems" policy that China has firmly implemented. Last year, we successfully hosted the Beijing Olympic Games. In our people's heroic fight against the aftermath of the devastating earthquake, we saw the power of cohesive force of our nation. China is a country of 56 ethnic groups. The central government has, under preferential policies, provided strong financial support to the economic development of minority areas such as Tibet and Xinjiang. These areas have realized the fastest development in history in the past three decades.

In 30 years since the reform, more than 200 million people in China have been lifted out of poverty, and the 83 million people with disabilities in China have received special care from the government and the society. We have

introduced free nine-year compulsory education throughout the country, established the cooperative medical system in rural areas and improved the social safety net. The age-old dream of the Chinese nation is being turned into reality to see the young educated, the sick treated and the old cared for. All these point to the tremendous efforts China has made to protect human rights. To the broad masses of the Chinese people, they know better than anyone else that their life has never been better and freer, and they have never had more confidence in themselves.

As the third largest economy with the largest population in the world, China's development has opened up a huge market to the world, making great contributions to the growth of global economy. China has strengthened international cooperation and has played an important constructive role in face of the recent international financial crisis. As a developing country, China has fed 22% of the world population using only 7% of the land in the world. This alone, makes great contributions to global food security and stability. China has actively participated in and supported the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and has taken determined and practical steps to improve its environment and tackle the challenge of climate change.

Ladies and gentlemen, recognizing China's great achievements in development, we fully realize that China remains a developing country. It has a long way to go before it can achieve modernization. China still lags behind more than 100 countries in terms of per capita GDP. With one fifth of the world's population, our difficulties are multiplied. We need to speed up rural development to reduce urban-rural disparity. We need to balance economic and social development. Many more issues are waiting for us to tackle. We must continue to unite our efforts and work hard to towards our goal of building China into a prosperous, strong, democratic and harmonious modern socialist country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

China pursues an independent foreign policy of peace. We have upheld the diplomatic principles of maintaining world peace and promoting common development. In the past 60 years, China has deepened its relations with the vast number of developing countries, esp. with Africa. China and Africa enjoy profound traditional friendship. To strengthen solidarity and enhance mutually beneficial cooperation with Africa is a long-term strategic decision for China and a basic principle guiding China's African policy. The year 2006 saw the establishment of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. This Forum serves as an important platform and effective mechanism in conducting

collective dialogue and gorging a new type of China-Africa Strategic partnership. In three years since the Beijing Summit, China has earnestly followed up the eight measures put forward by President Hu Jintao. China-Africa cooperation has been brought up to a new high.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

China and Namibia are true friends, enjoying excellent bilateral relations. As early as in the 60<sup>th</sup> of the last century, the Communist Party of China established friendly contacts with the SWAPO. China has all along given firm support to Namibia in its struggle for liberation and independence, and in its efforts in nation-building. And Namibia has continuously given China unswerving support on issues that concern China's core national interests.

Our friendship has indeed withstood the test of time. The past two decades have witnessed the consolidation of bilateral political relations. The two sides have maintained frequent high-level mutual visits, the latest being the successful visit to China in August this year by His Honorable Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Speaker of the National Assembly, and his delegation. The two governments have maintained close consultation and supported each other on international issues that concern the interests of both countries and the vast number of developing countries.

The past two decades have also witnessed continuous growth of bilateral economic cooperation that is mutually beneficial. Last year, bilateral trade between the two countries reached 526 million US dollars. Trade balance between the two countries continues to improve. In the first 6 months of 2009 trade volume reached 309 million US dollars, an increase of 142.8% than last year, among which China's export to Namibia was 106 million US dollars while import from Namibia reached 202 million US dollars, increasing by 296.4% than 2008.

The State House Residence with a total grant of 10 million RMB which started in November 2007 was completed in August and will be handed over to the Namibian side next month. Two weeks ago, I attended the handover ceremony of two large rural schools in Trumkwe and Omthiya. These were two of the three rural schools China has promised to build for Namibia, with a total investment of 13 million RMB. When I was there, surrounded by cheering San children and their parents, I realized what an impact the new school will have on these children's future. I can't tell you how proud I am for the practical contribution that we have made to their life. The third school, also in Trumkwe, is now under construction and will be completed by the end of this

October. The construction of the rural hospital in Omthiya with Chinese aid is expected to start next month. In addition, Chinese aqua-culture experts have arrived in Namibia and have started work with the Ministry of Fishery and Marine Resources. Under a newly-signed agreement between the two governments, China will provide a whole set of lab equipment worth 10 million RMB to UNAM Ongwediva Campus, which is expected to arrive early next year. Another project of 20 million RMB grant for agricultural irrigation was signed in May. This year up to now, 55 persons from Namibia have received professional and technical training in China at the cost of the Chinese government. As a small part, the Chinese Embassy has continued to provide donation of various materials to the needed schools, youth empowerment, cultural activities, and poverty-alleviation projects such as solar-energy panel sets to rural families in the North.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The deep-rooted friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Namibia have brought tangible benefits for the two peoples and have a great prospect. Next year, the 20<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Republic of Namibia will coincide with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Namibia. I'm sure our cooperation in various fields will yield new fruits. Let our two sides continue to work together to make it grow deeper and stronger.

Ladies and gentlemen, for this, and for the happy occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of the People's Republic of China, may I now ask you all to join me in a toast:

To the health of H.E. Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia,

To the prosperity of the People's Republic of China,

To the friendship between China and Namibia, and,

To the health of all our dear friends present here,

Cheers!

I thank you