China, Cuba vow to push forward ties to new high

BEIJING — China and Cuba vowed Wednesday to take the opportunity of the 50th anniversary of bilateral ties to advance their relations to a new high.

The pledge was made during top Cuban legislator Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada’s meetings with Chinese leaders in Beijing Wednesday. Alarcon, president of the Cuban National Assembly of People’s Power, is on a six-day visit to China.

During the talks with Alarcon, Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of China’s National People’s Congress (NPC), China’s top legislature, said China and Cuba enjoyed a deeply-rooted political foundation to develop ties, which were highlighted by mutual respect, mutual support and collaboration.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of China-Cuba diplomatic ties, China was ready to take this opportunity to enhance cooperation with Cuba, in a bid to push forward bilateral ties, Wu said. In 1960, Cuba was the first Latin American nation to forge diplomatic relations with China.

Wu also expressed the hope for closer ties between the two legislative bodies, saying China was willing to engage with Cuba on issues concerning governing and administration, as well as reform and innovation.

Alarcon said it was critical for Cuba to enhance bilateral ties with China, and Cuba was ready to draw on China’s development experience in reform and opening up.

“The Cuban political party, government and people were proud of the Cuba-China friendship and China’s development,” he said.

Prior to the talks with Wu, Alarcon also met with top Chinese political advisor Jia Qinglin, Jia, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said China paid great attention to the bilateral friendship of cooperation and was ready to further the ties to a new high.

He also expressed appreciation of Cuba’s consistent support on issues concerning Taiwan and Tibet, and said China supported Cuba’s adherence to the socialist road.

“The Cuba-China friendship has withstood the rapidly changing world, and radiates new vigor,” said Alarcon.

Alarcon will conclude the trip on Friday.

In 2009, China was Cuba’s largest supplier of capital goods and consumption commodities. (Xinhua)

SWAPO rocks Khorixas

By Anna Nakambale

SWAPO Party took Khorixas by storm last weekend, drawing a huge crowd of the Party’s supporters and sympathizers who converged at the town’s soccer field to be addressed by Founding President, Dr Sam Nujoma.

One of the highlights of the events was the welcoming back of some former members of the United Democratic Front, UDF, who crossed over to SWAPO Party. They were welcomed by Founding President Nujoma.

A stronghold of opposition party UDF, since independence, Justus Garoeb’s party support is now dwindling, and if last weekend’s huge gathering is anything to go by, UDF is set to be pushed to the periphery.

“You have joined a party of heroes and heroines,” said the Founding President as he welcomed the new members. “You have made the right choice. There is no other political party than SWAPO Party that can deliver on its promises.”

Dr Nujoma said that SWAPO Party government had done extremely well over the past five years, and had urged voters to renew its mandate to continue implementing its development programmes.

“Villages and town councils as well as the region that are not under the SWAPO Party leadership are not progressing, either because the opposition parties are inexperienced in terms of governance, or these villages, towns and regions are still confined to tribal political parties. He said that in regions like Kunene, many constituencies and the region as a whole, voters had been voting wrong people in the right position.

“It is for this reason that the SWAPO Party would like to see dramatic change in the administration of services delivery in this region, starting from Epupa, Kamanjab and Sesfontein constituencies in Khorixas,” said the Founding President.

“Like Chief Max Haraseb of the /Gaio Damna Traditional Authority said last week in Kamanjab, let the residents of Khorixas come to taste the sweet milk under the SWAPO Party’s governance.”

“The opposition is now afraid of the SWAPO Party’s presence in the region and have resorted to buying votes by paying for residents to vote for them. Many of our people in this region have now come to realize that they were misled by the opposition and are now deserting such parties in big numbers to join the SWAPO Party.”

He said that SWAPO Party was the only party that had the capacity to achieve economic independence and eradicate hunger, poverty and ignorance. It had set itself realistic objectives and implementable programmes.

“Unlike the opposition parties who make empty promises and could not bring tangible progress and development to the residents in the villages and towns in Kunene Region, including Khorixas and Sesfontein, SWAPO Party does not make empty promises but always deliver. I therefore urge you to vote wisely by voting for the SWAPO Party candidate,” said the Founding President.