

**Speech by Ambassador Li Qiangmin at the Reception
of the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of
the People's Republic of China
16:00—18:00 September 29th, 2009**

Hon. Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane, MP,

Minister of Finance and National Planning,

His Excellency Dr. Kenneth Kaunda,

The first Republican President,

Honorable Ministers and Deputy Ministers,

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors, High Commissioners,
Representatives from International Organizations accredited to
Zambia,

Distinguished guests,

Friends from the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon, I warmly welcome you today to the reception of the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China. First of all, please allow me to express my sincere thanks for your presence.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 1949 is a year of milestone in China's history. After protracted and hard struggle, the Chinese people succeeded in gaining independence and founded a New China, in which people became their own masters, laying the foundation for China's development and prosperity.

According to the Chinese traditional calendar, 60 years is a remarkable cycle of completion. Ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius had once concluded that when a person reaches his 60, he will be mature, tolerant and generous.

A 60 years old of People's Republic of China has traversed an extraordinary course and scored tremendous achievements in transforming the country into a stable and prosperous nation nowadays. China's economy has maintained an average annual growth rate of 8.1 percent between 1953 and 2008. China's GDP grew to US\$3.86 trillion in 2008 which is 77 times that of 1953

and became the third largest economy in the world. During last 30 years, China has attracted over 780 billion US dollars of net foreign investment. Now, China's export and import hit \$2.56 trillion, making it the second largest trading nation in the world. Especially in recent years, China has registered a solid growth track, and its economy has greatly boosted growth of the globe economy and trade. Such as in 2008, China contributed about 22% of global economic growth. Despite the financial crisis, China's economic growth still recorded 7.1 percent last year. And presently the whole world looks forward to China's stimulus package to act as one of the main engines for world economy recovering.

As a result of the fast-growing economy, Chinese people's living standards have also improved considerably. China's booming economy also saw its per capita income reach US\$2,700 in 2008. The overall living standard reaches a descent level. The rural population in abject poverty has decreased from 250 million in 1978 to 14.79 million in 2007, down from 30 percent to 1.6 percent of the country's whole population.

Besides the remarkable economic achievements, China also emerges itself as one of the most dynamic countries and

societies of the world and registers her development in multi-dimensions: dramatically reducing illiteracy rate, universalizing primary education, implementing infrastructure projects, establishing a comprehensive health and care system, and recently sending its first astronauts to walk into outer space, and hosting the best ever Olympic Games to date.

Let me quote the recent summery of Chinese President Hu Jintao on the revelations of China's 60 year experience in nation building as follows:

1. Uphold economic development as the central task and promote comprehensive and sustainable development
2. keep on open mind, seek truth from facts, be united and look forward
3. Policies regarding the reform should be scientific and the methods of implementing these policies should be well-coordinated.
4. Without stability, nothing can be done and even those we have achieved will be lost. So the balance of social stability and reform must be handled with care.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In spite of the unprecedented achievements, we are soberly aware that China still remains the world's largest developing country, with the largest and ever growing population, relatively weak economic foundation, uneven development, and challenge of unparalleled magnitude and complexity. And we are also aware it is only natural that the more China develops, the more challenges it will face and tackle with.

As the same with all other countries, China's development and economy also is confronted and challenged by the current financial crisis. We have been implementing several major measures of the adjustments through a massive stimulus package of 4 trillion RMB. With an immediate aim to get through this downturn and a long vision of a sustainable development, we not only allocate money to reboot the most heavily-stricken sectors, but also inject strong support to our education, technologies, improvement, poverty-reduction, managing the climate change challenges in a cooperative fashion in order to sharpen our economic competitiveness and pursue a less consuming and more effective ways of economy.

We clearly identify and fully understand that there is still a long way to go before all 1.35 billion Chinese people. At this juncture of 60 years of nation building, we Chinese people will engage in deep reflection about how it will move forward in the next 60 years and make this country enjoy greater prosperity.

Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished guests,

As the "peace oasis" of the southern African countries, Zambia's dedication to nation building and the smooth development is impressive. Zambian Government and people have recorded substantial advancement under President Banda's leadership in keeping national unity, coping with economic crunch, advancing social development and promoting peace and development in the region. We applaud the progress made by our Zambian brothers and sisters, and we wish you new success in advancing the great cause of national development.

China and Zambia are all weather friends, trustworthy partners and dear brothers. From the struggle to independence, nation-building, economic and social development, we support and help each other along the way and mutually benefit from

that a lot. Our two peoples have enjoyed longstanding friendship and cherished favorable and pleasant impression and sentiment towards each other. In international arena, we maintain effective cooperation and close consultation and enjoy staunch support concerning national core interests. On the 29th of next month, we will celebrate the 45 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between our 2 countries, which is a glorious and proud historical period of 45 years.

Distinguished invited guests,

The year 2006, which witnesses the success of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, was a milestone in the history of China-Africa relations. At the Beijing Summit, the Chinese and African leaders unanimously agreed to establish and develop a new type of China-Africa strategic partnership featuring political equality and mutual trust, economic win-win cooperation and cultural exchange. They adopted a plan for promoting China-Africa cooperation in the next three years. Chinese President Hu Jintao announced eight measures in terms of development assistance, debt relief, medical and public health, people-to-people exchanges, human

resource development, etc. to enhance practical cooperation with Africa and support Africa's development, and Zambia is the first African country to benefit from all the 8 assistance policy measures.

Along those three years, FOCAC has established itself as an effective and efficient vehicle which broadens and deepens cooperation with our fellow African countries, the political trust fostered, economic cooperation expanded, and cultural exchanged enhanced. The upcoming Fourth session of ministerial meeting of FOCAC in Egypt this November will give an over-all review of those 3 years, and we are looking forward to lifting the level of Sino-African cooperation to a new height. China will continue to share development and prosperity with our African brothers.

As the three years coming to the end, we are happy to see that as one of the major beneficiaries of the Beijing Summit, through the cooperation, our brother country-Zambia has established a more close, constructive and friendly partnership with us. Up to now, more than 300 Chinese companies in Zambia increase the total value of Chinese investment to Zambia from 500

million US dollars in 2006 to 880 million by now. Present Bilateral trade is climbing up to 800 million US dollars from 300 million in 2006.

A friend in need is a friend indeed. During the financial meltdown, Chinese companies in Zambia committed the '3 Nos' as 'not reduce the investment, the production or employment'. During the most difficult time of Zambia's mining industry, Chinese companies offered to take over the Luanshya Cooper Mine and Munali Nickel Mine and created an extra of 1000 jobs for the local community. With the concept of common development, we believe we can weather through current difficult times by joining hands together with Zambian people. We would like to be the true friends of our Zambian brothers and sisters. And as an all-weather friend, China will continue our support for Zambia's development efforts.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finally, I'd like to propose a toast

To the prosperity of China and Zambia and well-being of our two peoples!

To the ever lasting friendship between our two countries and two peoples!

To the health of H.E. Rupiah Bwezani Banda and H.E. Hu Jintao!

To the health of all guests present!

Cheers!