

Honourable House Chairperson Cedric Thomas Frolick

Speaking Notes: Embassy of China and Independent Media – Xi Jinping Thought and Book Review of the Governance of China 07/12/2017

- H.E. Ambassador Lin, H.E. former Ambassador Lou Guilin, Dr Iqbal Survé (Executive Chairman of the Independent Media Group),
- Good evening and thank you for the invitation to speak at this auspicious occasion to mark a milestone in the life of our great friend and sister party – the Communist Party of China (CPC) as we observe their recently concluded 19th National Congress. We gather today while our country is observing *16 Days of Activism For No Violence Against Women and Children* and as we prepare for our own, ANC National Conference taking place in a few days' time.
- Understanding the context, within which President Xi Jinping's report to the 19th National Congress of the CPC takes place, is important. WE are witnessing an ever-changing and dynamic interplay of politics and economics at the extra-national level where great shifts are plausible in this complex interplay thus, requiring decisive leadership and co-ordination of the progressive internationalist forces.
- President Xi's report is therefore instructive to the Party, the People of China and the rest of the developing world, in particular. It represents the seventh revision to the 1982 CPC Constitution, since its 13th National Congress in 1987 – it builds on and further enriches Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the Theory of Three Represents and the Scientific Outlook on Development.
- Succinctly, it refocuses us toward the theme of the congress, to never forget the party's founding purpose: the realisation of the “great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation” or as President Xi has asserted since the beginning of his Presidency, the “Chinese Dream”.
- It reflects a mature understanding that the Constitution must reflect the dynamism of historical change and encompass the ideological orientation to guide the evolution of culture, economy, society and decisively, its anticipated disruptions.
- In representing the adaption of Marxism to the Chinese context, with the benefit of the practical experience and collective wisdom, it systematises the fulfilment of the Chinese Dream in line with the noted ‘*two centennial goals*’
 - Firstly, to build a “moderately prosperous society” by eradicating poverty in 2021 via economic policies to create a more equal distribution
 - Secondly, to make China a “fully developed nation” by 2049
- Achieving goal 2 is to be done via two stages which are critical to the alignment of the progressive internationalist forces: one, the realisation of socialist modernisation

by 2035 and the second stage, establishing China as a leading global power with a concrete establishment of “common property” for the Chinese people.

- For South Africa and indeed Africa, these specific goals align with the ruling ANC’s tradition of active internationalism on the continent and globally, playing our part in the renewal of Africa, promoting South-South cooperation, engaging countries of the North, and striving for the transformation of the global system of governance.
- In particular, we draw strength from Comrade President Xi’s report as it commits an even broader vision of China’s diplomacy in the world with a broader sense of international responsibilities and more active diplomatic actions. Specifically, our mutual interest in active reformation and development of the global governance systems inspires confidence.
- China supported liberation movements in a number of African countries. When we in South Africa embarked on the armed struggle, China was one of the countries we looked at to offer us its assistance, following the inspirational 1949 revolution led by Chairman Mao. Our friendship has deep historical links against imperialism.
- Contemporarily, as members of BRICS, we agreed to promote the development of the BRICS Local Currency Bond Markets and jointly establish a BRICS Local Currency Bond Fund, as a means of contribution to the capital sustainability of financing in BRICS countries thereby boosting the development of BRICS domestic and regional bond markets, which includes increasing foreign private sector participation, and enhancing the financial resilience of BRICS countries. This co-operation is imperative and a material step in realisation of President Xi’s *“Thought on Socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era.”*
- The new era, envisioned, has noted that the principal contradiction facing China’s socialist society has evolved and is now between “unbalanced and inadequate development and the people’s ever-growing needs for a better life.” Spurring us into action, we must ensure our actions address this and organise human experience understanding the temporality of our existence.
- Africa’s Agenda 2063 together with regional co-operation and our member-states own developmental agendas, in our case the National Development Plan 2030, evidence certain commonalities and implementation must take note of the trends which are advantageous. The New Development Bank with its Africa Regional Centre is instructive in this regard.
- We recall that South Africa as incoming chair of BRICS shall host the tenth BRICS Summit next year and the 10 major China-Africa co-operation plans announced at the Johannesburg FOCAC Summit, which has already witnessed great results.

- Despite the recent challenges, Africa's household consumption and business spending are both growing strongly, offering companies a 5.6 trillion US dollars opportunity by 2025 according to the latest McKinsey Report.
 - Africa's manufacturing sector today does not compare favourably with those of other emerging economies. However, McKinsey predicts that output could expand to nearly one trillion US dollars in 2025 if Africa's manufacturers were to produce more to meet domestic demand from consumers and businesses, and work with governments to address factors hindering their ability to produce and export goods.
 - Brautigam (2009), like some other analysts, poses the question whether Chinese investment in African manufacturing could catalyse industrialization, via stimulation of backward and forward linkages for African domestic industry.

- Together with our close co-operation, our strong commitment toward climate change and combatting global warming is important. The 23rd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change must therefore be jealously safeguarded to ensure our continued prosperity.

- Allow me to close with Comrade President Xi's remarks at the Johannesburg FOCAC Summit: "China-Africa relations have today reached a stage of growth unmatched in history ... Let's join hands ... and open a new era of China-Africa win-win cooperation and common development."