

**Statement to be delivered at the Reception in Celebration of the  
66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of  
China: Hyatt Regency  
September 27, 2015**

His Excellency Huang Xingyuan (pronounced *Huhwang Zing-yu-an*),  
Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, and Mrs. Ma Li;

The Honourable the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Ivor Archie and Mrs Archie;

Senator the Honourable Christine Kangaloo, President of the Senate;

The Honourable Bridgid Annisette-George, Speaker of the House of  
Representatives;

Distinguished Cabinet Ministers;

Your Excellencies, Heads of Mission and other members of the Diplomatic  
Corps;

Sir Dennis Byron, President of the Caribbean Court of Justice and Lady  
Byron;

Members of Staff of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China;

Specially invited guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good evening.

It is my pleasure to address you this evening on the authority, and as the personal representative of Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, who has asked me to apologise on his behalf for his absence this evening. I extend warm congratulations, on behalf of the Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and the Government and People of our nation to the Government and People of the People's Republic of China on this 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of your National Day. It is my understanding that the number 6 is a lucky number in Chinese culture it is described as a fortunate number mainly meaning smooth or well off and double sixes, or 66, represents double the fortune, or how well things are going, so on this the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China the occasion is even more auspicious.

Your Excellency, I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the kind sentiments transmitted by your Government to Prime Minister Dr Rowley and the new Administration since coming into office earlier this month.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, today's celebration is particularly noteworthy when one reflects on the significant socio-economic challenges faced by a nascent China on October 1, 1949. Sixty-six years later, the People's Republic of China is one of the world's major economic powers and a key actor in international affairs contributing to international peace and development across the globe.

Bilaterally, Trinidad and Tobago's relations with China officially began some forty-one (41) years ago on June 20, 1974. However, the engagement has been much longer and deeper and can be traced back to 1806 with the arrival of the first Chinese citizens to our shores. Since that time, nationals of Trinidad and Tobago, of Chinese descent, have made a significant contribution to the economic, social, cultural and political tapestry of our twin-island Republic. In fact, my personal story on my father's side began with my grandparents coming to Trinidad and Tobago directly from China in the late 1940's.

Both of our countries collaborate in a plethora of areas such as health, defence, sport and culture which impact wide sectors of society. The handover in April this year of physical education equipment to primary, secondary and tertiary education institutions across the country to promote physical activity and good health among our nation's young people is but one example. High level visits by public and private sector officials, of both sides, over the last 41 years have also strengthened the people-to-people contact as have the cultural exchange programmes which afford both sides rich insights into the other's way of life. Tonight's performance of the Anhui (pronounced *Ahn-hway*) Arts Troupe will certainly add to this cross-cultural appreciation.

Trinidad and Tobago has undoubtedly benefitted from Chinese training programmes and scholarships which have contributed to the development of our country's human capital. To date, more than one hundred nationals have accessed tertiary level programmes in fields such as international business, medicine, engineering, and international relations. Shorter

training seminars, focussing specifically on building capacity in the public sector, have been offered in energy, trade and economic development, female leadership, Chinese language and culture, tourism development, and diplomacy. More recently, in July/August, eight (8) agronomists from China shared their knowledge on tropical crops, cultivation and greenhouse technology with local farmers.

China is also a significant interlocuteur and partner of the Caribbean as well as the wider region within the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). At the multilateral level, Trinidad and Tobago and China work closely within the Group of 77 and China to advance the very important development paradigm of countries of the South.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, as I conclude, I quote a simple Chinese proverb: "Be not afraid of growing slowly, be afraid only of standing still." I am glad to observe that, 66 years after its founding, the People's Republic of China continues to grow and prosper and to lead on a global scale. Further, I am confident that the bilateral relationship between our two republics is not in danger of "standing still". Trinidad and Tobago places great importance on our friendship and looks forward to an even more productive future. As we commemorate this 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China, we celebrate with pride and appreciation, the robust ties that exist between our nations.

At this juncture, may I invite you all to raise your glasses and join me in a toast, on behalf of Prime Minister Dr the Honourable Keith Rowley and the Government and People of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, to the

Government and People of the People's Republic of China on the 66<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China.

I thank you.