



Office of
the Prime Minister

**Remarks by on the Occasion of The Joint Signing Ceremony between The
Commonwealth of The Bahamas and The People's Republic of China**

**Hon. Philip Davis, QC, MP
Prime Minister & Minister of Finance**

29th August 2022

Esteemed Representatives of the Hunan Province...
Colleague Cabinet Ministers...
Ambassador...
Permanent Secretaries and other Government Officials...
Ladies and gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to preside over this Joint Signing Ceremony to formalise agreements between the Government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, and the Hunan Province of The People's Republic of China.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between The Bahamas and China. I am pleased that we have been able to mark this milestone in so many ways.

In this month alone, in addition to our signing ceremony today, a number of commemorative events have been held. These include the inaugural 'Dragon Boat Festival', a special Tea Ceremony hosted by the Chinese Ambassador and attended by my wife, a virtual seminar on Climate Change Diplomacy, and on August 31st, The Bahamas-China Trade Cooperation Forum.

In recent times, we have all seen how the COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the worldwide critical infrastructure. Countries have been required to strengthen and enhance their investments to ensure the quality of life for their people.

My sincere thanks to the Government of the People's Republic of China for their continued support in helping us to strengthen our own infrastructure here. We greatly appreciate their donations of medical equipment and supplies, which contributed greatly to the country's response to the pandemic. As of today, that largesse has been expanded to include a donation of hemodialysis machinery and equipment.

These donations helped to save many lives in our country. We remain extremely grateful.

Even while we celebrate the growth and development of the relationship over these 25 years, we also look to the future, and hope to explore ways to deepen engagement at all levels between our two countries.

We share a number of priorities, and we look forward to a closer dialogue on issues of mutual interest. These include matters relating to health, agriculture, and the human connections between our respective countrymen.

This special bilateral relationship and in particular, our partnership with Hunan Province, has already been fruitful.

I wish to acknowledge and extend my deep appreciation for the commitment of the Government of China to strengthen ties with our country, and I reaffirm the pledge of the Government of The Bahamas to match this commitment.

I intend to build on the strong momentum of this relationship, which has been bolstered by the strong leadership of Ambassador Dai. This has certainly strengthened our existing relations.

We expect that the forthcoming arrival of Her Excellency, Ms. Paulette Bethel, Ambassador-Designate of The Bahamas to China in Beijing, will accelerate The Bahamas' engagement in China. As a distinguished career diplomat, Ambassador-Designate Bethel has the experience, skills and dedication to strengthen our diplomatic presence.

I firmly believe that the conclusion of these agreements today will be yet another springboard to advance our political and technical agenda. It will help to promote effective, sustainable development for both countries, as we consolidate our current cooperation, and find new and innovative ways for future partnerships.

Thank you.

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