

Speech at The Communist Party of China in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-level Meeting

Your Excellency President and General Secretary Xi Jinping,
Members of the Central Committee of the CPC,
Fellow leaders of political parties and heads of government who participate
in this very important meeting and conversation,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is really my absolute honour and privilege to address the Communist Party of China with other world leaders of political parties at this High-level Dialogue. I'm here with my Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Party Leader. I'm here with my Foreign Minister. I'm here with my National Planning Minister and of course with the Chinese Ambassador at 11 o'clock in the evening because we really value this conversation. We think it's important. And I want to applaud the Chinese government, especially Your Excellency President Xi Jinping for this timely meeting of political party leaders under your Party's initiative.

But firstly, on this auspicious occasion, let me congratulate Your Excellency President Xi Jinping, on your re-election as the President of the People's Republic of China.

I want to applaud the CPC for convening this World Political Parties High-level Meeting, providing a platform for the world's political parties to strengthen exchanges and mutual learning on governance and other areas.

The theme “Path Towards Modernization: The Responsibility of Political Parties” is a very fitting one for this occasion as it provides an avenue for CPC to reflect on its achievements and its future political leadership.

China, notably, has made remarkable progress under the leadership of CPC and the conclusion of the 20th National Congress of CPC is indeed a very significant occasion for all Chinese people on this profound and remarkable journey.

Over the last decade coinciding with the leadership of President Xi Jinping, China has portrayed on the international stage, high-quality development for its people and has really set the benchmark for other countries to follow including my own country.

This is inspirational. This is something worth noting. Papua New Guinea would like to commend China’s leadership for this historic lift of world people into modern life and good life.

As the world second largest economy, China’s total value of trade in goods and services has ranked first globally for two consecutive years since 2020, and two-way investment has been in the front as far as global ranking is concerned.

I must admit that China has found a development path suited to her own national conditions. I also thank China for its long-standing support and assistance towards nations like my very own Papua New Guinea and our Development Agenda.

There is no doubt that Chinese pathway to modernization, offers humanity another choice for achieving better standard of living, and we need to explore this sort of contextualized modernization from our own perspectives.

Papua New Guinea is very proud to say since independence of our country in 1975, we have always adhered to the One-China policy and will remain firm in its position. It has been my Party, Pangu Party's policy and we will maintain this policy, respecting the sovereignty of China as it is today and as it was in the past.

PNG is also committed to deepening exchanges and cooperation between our two countries. Whilst we are sometimes on the receiving end from the aid from China, we also want to move past and strengthen more relations with China, especially learn from China's experience, and enhance people-to-people, business-to-business and government-to-government exchanges.

It was indeed my pleasure and honor to meet you, Mr. President on the margins of the APEC Leaders' Summit in 2022 where we discussed many issues of mutual interest between our both nations.

Mr. President, I am satisfied with our discussion on increased business, trade and investment that will promote air services, particularly the Port Moresby –Shanghai, amongst other things that we are going to do.

Under the leadership of my Party, the Pangu Party, we have embarked on initiatives towards growing our domestic Economy through industrialization and downstream processing, something very similar to the path the great Chinese nation took over 30, 40 years ago. And that was massively expanded under President Xi Jinping, your tenure as leader of the Communist Party of

China and the great Chinese nation.

To complement these initiatives, my Government has embarked on various policy and legislative reforms across all sectors with the view of making PNG a very conducive investment climate for existing and potential investors.

PNG is blessed with an abundance of natural resources, in mining, oil and gas, fisheries, forestry and agriculture and it is my Government's and my Party's intention to maximize returns on investments in these sectors through market access and downstream processing. At this juncture, let me thank very much President Xi Jinping for your commitment to greater partnership with my country in respect to business-to-business relations, between your businesses and my businesses.

For the first time in our country's history, my Government is placing more emphasis on the agriculture sector and possibly would have now created new Portfolios namely Coffee Ministry, Livestock Ministry and Oil Palm Ministry, as well as Culture and Tourism.

The core enablers of these trade and investment initiatives and achieving a resilient and diversified economy are high-quality economic infrastructure and strengthening the rule of law and domestic security that will boost business and investment confidence.

At this juncture, Mr. President, I want to invite Chinese Investors to consider investing in PNG, particularly in the downstream processing of products that will add value to our natural products and support our rural economies.

Aside from that my Government has established Special Economic Zones in selected Provinces that have the potential to spur economic growth and I want to again take this time to invite Chinese investors to take up residences and partners, in the space of farmers, trade and investment in the Special Economic Zones.

PNG itself is indeed a profound and splendid nation of diversity of cultures. We have over 1000 different cultures, over 800 different languages and I want to take this opportunity to reiterate President Xi Jinping's initiative on promoting mutual learning exchanges among global civilizations. Though diverse we may be, finding unity and common grounds is something we'd like to promote. And I want to commend President Xi Jinping's initiative.

The diversity of civilizations should not be a burden for a country's development, but rather an asset for inheritance, innovation and development, especially at this time when the international community is facing so many challenges such as Climate Change, COVID-19 just to name a few.

My Government and the Pangu Party is ready to work closely with the Communist Party of China as well as other countries and world political parties to strengthen dialogue and communication and unite to address common challenges, and build a better world that will leave no one behind, especially those who are in the rural enclaves.

Let me conclude by thanking President and General Secretary His Excellency Xi Jinping for the opportunity to deliver this speech and I wish you all a fruitful discussion during this important Dialogue. May the common good for humanity come out of this Dialogue.

Thank you very much. God bless General Secretary and President Xi Jinping.
God bless the great People's Republic of China.