

PRIME MINISTER DAVIS

FAREWELL REMARKS TO AMBASSADOR DAI

APRIL 5TH, 2024

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we come together on this occasion, I'm reminded of an old Chinese saying, 'It is easy to find a thousand soldiers, but hard to find a good general.' Well, in the realm of diplomacy and friendship, we found more than a good general in Ambassador Dai. We found a visionary leader, a dedicated bridge-builder—whether here in Nassau or on the many trips you took to Family Islands Ambassador Dai, as the first woman to helm the role of China's Ambassador to The Bahamas, you've rowed, sometimes against the tide, to bring our nations closer and you have led your team with distinction.

You have not just broken new ground; you have cultivated it, nurturing a fertile field of cultural exchange, mutual respect, and friendship between our countries. Your leadership, vision, and dedication have left indelible marks on the hearts and minds of the Bahamian people, marks as enduring as the very infrastructure projects we've embarked on together.

Speaking of infrastructure, the grant for our national stadium—a jewel in the crown of our cooperation—stands as a symbol of our shared achievements. This stadium is

not merely a structure of steel and concrete; it is a living monument to our friendship, a place where our cultures converge in celebration of sportsmanship, unity, and the collective spirit of our people. Through your efforts, Ambassador Dai, this project has become a symbol of what can be achieved when nations come together, sharing resources, dreams, and aspirations for the betterment of their people.

Your tenure has been characterized by such monumental achievements, yet it is the smaller, personal moments that often resonate the most. The Dragon Boat Festival, for instance, brought a piece of Chinese tradition to our shores, allowing Bahamians to partake in the joy and camaraderie of this ancient sport. Under your guidance, this festival has grown from a cultural showcase into a beloved annual event, symbolizing the strength found in unity and the beauty of diverse communities rowing in the same direction.

Our development partnership, under your watchful eye, has flourished. Projects that were once mere ideas on paper have been brought to life, transforming our landscape and enhancing the quality of life for our citizens. These tangible tokens of our friendship are daily reminders of the strength of our bilateral relations.

Equally impactful has been our health partnership, a testament to our shared commitment to the well-being of our people. The eight batches of medical supplies and equipment you've facilitated have not only strengthened our healthcare infrastructure but have also been a symbol of hope during our most challenging times. These contributions have been invaluable, underscoring the depth of your dedication to not just diplomatic success but to humanitarian compassion.

Among the many roles Ambassador Dai has played, perhaps one of the most impactful has been that of a cultural bridge. Through her initiatives, she has opened a window to the rich depth of Chinese culture for the Bahamian people. From Chinese philosophy to the healing practices of traditional Chinese medicine, she has facilitated a vibrant exchange of knowledge and wisdom. The introduction of Chinese tea ceremonies and the mesmerizing sounds of Chinese music and opera have further enriched our cultural landscape, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of the diversity that unites us.

Ambassador Dai's passion for philanthropy and charity has been driven by emphasizing their significance in fostering a compassionate society. Her endeavours have underscored the belief that prosperity should be shared and that the true measure of a society's strength lies in its willingness to extend a helping hand to the less fortunate. Through various charitable projects and initiatives, she has demonstrated how generosity can transcend borders, building bridges of solidarity and support between our peoples. This spirit of giving has not only aided those in immediate need but has also sown the seeds of enduring friendship and cooperation.

Moreover, Ambassador Dai's commitment to empowering women has been a source of inspiration. She has tirelessly worked to elevate the role of women in society, championing gender equality and encouraging women's participation in leadership and development. Her advocacy has shown that the empowerment of women is not just a matter of fairness but a cornerstone of societal progress. Through forums, workshops,

and direct engagement, she has helped to inspire a new generation of women leaders in The Bahamas, instilling in them the confidence to break barriers and the determination to succeed.

Our development partnership, under your watchful eye, has flourished. We share your country's vision under the Global Development Initiative Projects that were once mere ideas on paper have been brought to life, transforming our landscape and enhancing the quality of life for our citizens. These tangible tokens of our friendship are daily reminders of the strength and our bilateral relations.

Ambassador Dai, the One China policy, is the principle that underpins the diplomatic relationships between our nations. Your efforts to educate and inform Bahamians on the political meaning of this policy have helped to solidify our mutual understanding and respect for China's sovereignty. This advocacy has not only been crucial in maintaining the integrity of our bilateral relations but has also provided a foundation for the trust and respect that characterizes our interactions. It's a testament to your dedication to both her country's principles and the nurturing of a relationship built on mutual respect and understanding.

As we bid you farewell, Ambassador Dai, we do so knowing that your legacy will continue to influence the ties between The Bahamas and China for years to come. You leave behind not just projects and programs, but a legacy of warmth, friendship, and mutual understanding that transcends the formalities of diplomacy.

We say goodbye with heavy hearts but also with a profound sense of gratitude for your service, your friendship, and the countless ways you have enriched our nation. May your next chapter be as rewarding and impactful as your time here has been. And remember, in The Bahamas, you will always have a home, a community ready to welcome you back with open arms, and perhaps, a dragon boat eager for one more race.

Farewell, Ambassador Dai and Thank You.