



REMARKS BY
THE HON. FREDERICK A. MITCHELL, MP,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS,
ON THE OCCASION
OF THE FAREWELL DINNER FOR
HER EXCELLENCY DAI QINGLI,
AMBASSADOR OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
BAHAMAS

BRITISH COLONIAL
ONE BAY STREET
NASSAU, THE BAHAMAS
5TH APRIL 2024 AT 7PM

Honourable Philip Davis, KC, MP, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
Her Excellency Dai Qingli, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to The Bahamas
Colleague Ministers and Parliamentarians,
Distinguished Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corp.
Senior Public Servants,
Distinguished Guests, Friends of the Chinese and Bahamian Community, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening.

I have the honour of presenting remarks on the occasion of this farewell ceremony in honour of Her Excellency Dai Qingli, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to The Bahamas.

Since establishing diplomatic relations between our two countries on the 23rd of May 1997, we have developed a mutually beneficial relationship. During Ambassador Dai's diplomatic tenure, relations between The Bahamas and China have continued to advance significantly. This is evidenced by the increased high-level visits by both sides.

Ambassador Dai has faithfully served in her role since 2021, and I wish to commend her for the great work she has done for the past four years in representing China's commitment to its friendly cooperation with The Bahamas, through diplomatic and community engagement.

Excellency,

You were always a call away when we had urgent matters, and you always extended yourself to ensure that our mutual interests were met.

For that, I say, thank you.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ambassador Dai assumed post in The Bahamas during a very significant period of transition for the country, as we, along with other countries around the world, were still facing the Covid-19 pandemic.

In demonstrating China's commitment to The Bahamas, Ambassador Dai delivered on her government's promise to donate various medical supplies to The Bahamas. As a result, The Bahamas has received over 13 batches of medical supplies from China from the early stages of the pandemic and up to last year.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Under Ambassador Dai's tenure, The Bahamas and China continued supporting each other bilaterally and in the international community. The most noted achievements during this period, include the following:

- 1) The Bahamas continues to be promoted in China as an ideal travel destination for Chinese tourists.
- 2) A Memorandum of Understanding has been established to provide technical assistance to The Bahamas in the area of Agriculture.
- 3) A Letter of Intent was signed between Grand Bahama and the Hunan Province of China to establish Sister/City relations.
- 4) The refurbishment of the Thomas A. Robinson Stadium.
- 5) An increased number of scholarship opportunities for Bahamians.

- 6) And more recently, The Bahamas has endorsed the Global Development Initiative, referred to as the GDI, on 28th March via diplomatic channels. The GDI was initially announced in 2021 from China's President Xi Jinping and is purposed to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) remain on target.

There were and still are ongoing technical exchanges as a result of Ambassador Dai's commitment to ensure that our countries continue to strengthen bilateral relations.

Excellency,

We hope that you have been able to feel the warmth and friendliness of the Bahamian people during your tenure and we welcome your return at any time.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us raise our glasses as we bid farewell to Her Excellency Dai Qingli, the outgoing Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to The Bahamas.

Excellency,

We wish you all the best in the next chapter of your life.

Cheers to continued health, success, and prosperity.

Thank you once again for your excellent contributions to the Government and People of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas on behalf of the Government and People of the People's Republic of China.

May our two countries continue to deepen the fraternal ties that exist between us, for the many years to come.