

1. Grand Gala Held to Mark 60th Anniversary of China-Kenya Ties
2. Remarks by H.E. Dr. Zhou Pingjian at the Reception Marking the 60th Anniversary of China-Kenya Diplomatic Relations
3. Interview: Kenya-China Cooperation has Unleashed Profound Benefits, Says Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary
4. Remarks by H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi
5. For China-Kenya Ties, 60 is just but a Number



## 中国-肯尼亚建交60周年

60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of China-Kenya Diplomatic Relations

## Grand Gala Held to Mark 60th Anniversary of China-Kenya Ties



**T**hursday, December 14, 2023, the Chinese Embassy in Kenya organized a high-profile reception in one of Nairobi's tallest buildings, the Global Trade Center, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Kenya and China.



In attendance were senior government officials including Cabinet Secretaries led by Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia

Mudavadi, Members of Parliament and the Judiciary, Ambassadors, High Commissioners as well as other members of the diplomatic corps, among others.

Mudavadi described the celebrations as a culmination of many years of consistent, trusting, collaborative, and mutually beneficial partnership between Nairobi and Beijing. He said the ties between the two countries have grown by leaps and bounds, even as he expressed confidence that the relations will continue to advance through shared prosperity and mutual understanding.

"Kenya applauds China for its transformative initiatives in Kenya and Africa whose socio-economic impacts have been far-reaching. As one of the few countries with a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with China, the highest form

of Bilateral Relations, Kenya ' s developmental landscape has benefited the most from China ' s investment," he said.



While underscoring the centrality of Sino-Kenya bilateral and people-to-people relations, he said China is now Kenya ' s largest trading partner, largest source country of contracted companies, and one of the most important sources of employment for Kenyans accounting for up to 50,000 locals, hired by the 400 Chinese firms operating in the country across various sectors.

In his message, the Chinese Ambassador to Kenya Dr. Zhou Pingjian highlighted developments resulting from the long-standing diplomatic relationship which he noted has grown from strength to strength for the last six decades.

"Since the establishment of diplomatic ties, our two peoples have forged fraternity, our bilateral relations have yielded fruits, and our two countries have become good friends and good partners that trust each other, setting an example for China-Africa relations and South-South cooperation,"

Over the past sixty years, Ambassador Zhou observed that China and Kenya have

pursued sincere friendship and equality. He said both sides respect each other, see each other as equals, and get along well. As such, he said China ' s commitment to aiding Kenya ' s development aspirations will never waver.

" When it comes to issues involving the other side ' s core interests and major concerns, we understand and support each other. China may do what it can to help Kenya ' s development, but China is truly grateful to the government and people of Kenya for the great support and selfless help you have given China over the years," he said.

On the economic front, the envoy drew attention to the fact that relations had progressed to encouraging levels and people were now enjoying the outcome of the productive engagements.

" China and Kenya have pursued win-win for mutual benefit and common development. Major cooperation projects such as the Moi International Sports Center (MISC) Kasarani, the SGR, the Expressway, and the GTC in Nairobi, have benefited our two peoples. Our fruitful Belt and Road cooperation has opened a new era," said Ambassador Zhou.



"China will never forget Kenya's invaluable support in the restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations back in 1971 and highly appreciates Kenya's firm commitment to the one-China principle," the Ambassador remarked while emphasizing the significance Beijing attaches to ties with Nairobi.

The celebrations ended with a commitment from both sides to continue forging win-win cooperation that will unlock shared prosperity. ■

<https://www.kbc.co.ke/grand-gala-held-to-mark-60th-anniversary-of-china-kenya-ties/#:~:text=Thursday%2C%20December%2014%2C%202023%2C,relations%20between%20Kenya%20and%20China.>



Remarks by H.E. Dr. Zhou Pingjian at the Reception Marking the  
60th Anniversary of China-Kenya Diplomatic Relations



**Y**our Excellency Prime Cabinet Secretary Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentleman,

Sixty years ago today, China and Kenya established diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level. President Xi today exchanges congratulatory messages with President Ruto on the 60th anniversary of the establishment of China-Kenya diplomatic relations.

The epoch-making event on December 14, 1963, is indeed a milestone of historic significance in the annals of exchange between the people of China and the people of Kenya, which dates back to six hundred years ago when the Chinese navigator Zheng He made voyages to the coast of east Africa with his magnificent

Treasure Fleet.

Since the establishment of diplomatic ties, our two peoples have forged fraternity, our bilateral relations have yielded fruits, and our two countries have become good friends and good partners that trust each other, setting an example for China-Africa relations and South-South cooperation.

Many friends present here today have long devoted to the cause of China-Kenya friendship. You are witnesses and contributors of China-Kenya relations. I wish to take this opportunity to express sincere gratitude and great respect to all of you. I also wish to extend warm welcome to all heads of foreign diplomatic missions and all friends here with us. Your presence is the embodiment of the powerful connection between China and Kenya.

Over the past sixty years, China and Kenya have pursued sincere friendship and equality. We respect each other, see each other as equals, and get along well. When it comes to issues involving the other side's core interests and major concerns, we understand and support each other. China may do what it can to help Kenya's development, but China is truly grateful to the government and people of Kenya for the great support and selfless help you have given China over the years.

Over the past sixty years, China and Kenya have pursued win-win for mutual benefit and common development. Major cooperation projects such as the Moi International Sports Center (MISC) Kasarani, the SGR, the Expressway and the GTC in Nairobi, have benefited our two peoples. Our fruitful Belt and Road cooperation has opened a new era of Zheng He.

Over the past sixty years, China and Kenya have pursued fairness and justice. We both uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. We both oppose intervention in domestic affairs, racial discrimination, unilateral sanctions, and hegemonism. We are both committed to upholding the rights and interests of developing countries. China will never forget Kenya's invaluable support in the restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations back in 1971 and highly appreciates Kenya's firm commitment to the one-China principle.

Over the past sixty years, China and Kenya have pursued progress with the times and openness and inclusiveness. At every

critical juncture of China-Kenya relations, both sides have managed to identify new points of alignment and growth areas for mutually beneficial cooperation, enriching traditional friendship and promoting bilateral relations to new heights.

The long-standing China-Kenya friendship is a testament to the everlasting spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation forged by the two sides. The spirit truly captures the dynamic development of China-Kenya diplomatic relations over the past sixty years, and provides a source of strength for continuous growth of China-Kenya friendly relations. China will work together with Kenyan friends to promote and carry forward the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation from generation to generation.

Distinguished guests, Friends,

Last October, President Ruto attended the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in China. President Xi and President Ruto had a friendly and in-depth exchange of views and reached important common understandings on the future development of our bilateral relations.

China stands ready to work with Kenya to implement the important common understandings reached between our Presidents, take the 60th anniversary as a new starting point to explore a distinctive path of cooperation in our respective pursuit of national development and rejuvenation, continuously enrich our comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and jointly build an even

closer China-Kenya community with a shared future in the new era.

China is committed to forging a more comprehensive partnership with Kenya. China supports Kenya's independent exploration of its own path of modernization in line with the country's actual situation. China stands ready to work with Kenya to put into action the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative, and implement the outcomes of the Belt and Road Forum and the FOCAC meetings, so as to better support Kenya's Vision 2030 and the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

China is committed to forging a more strategic partnership with Kenya. Both China and Kenya are important members of the Global South. China views and grows China-Kenya relations from a strategic height and supports Kenya in playing a greater role in regional and international affairs. China stands ready to strengthen communication and collaboration in multilateral settings with Kenya to jointly act on true multilateralism, defend the central role of the United Nations in international affairs, and safeguard the common interests of developing countries.

China is committed to forging a more

cooperative partnership with Kenya. China and Kenya are both experiencing a process of rapid development. Our knowledge and understanding of each other must be kept up to speed. China will face squarely and sincerely the new developments and new problems that confront China-Kenya relations, handle as appropriate any problems that arise in a spirit of mutual respect and win-win cooperation, so as to enable Kenya to gain more from the cooperation. At the same time, we sincerely hope that Kenya will provide the corresponding conditions necessary for Chinese enterprises and citizens to engage in cooperation in Kenya.

Distinguished guests, Friends,

In traditional Chinese culture, the 60th year is always memorable as it completes a cycle called the Jiazi, a concept unique to the Chinese calendar. Standing at a new historical starting point, we have every confidence in advancing our friendship. Let us work hand in hand to open up even more brighter prospects for China-Kenya relations.

May the friendship between China and Kenya last forever.

Asanteni sana. ■

[http://ke.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/zxyw/202312/t20231215\\_11203311.htm](http://ke.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/zxyw/202312/t20231215_11203311.htm)

## Interview: Kenya-China Cooperation has Unleashed Profound Benefits, Says Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary

**T**he bilateral cooperation between Kenya and China that was formalized in December 1963 has covered a critical milestone, unleashing fruitful results for both sides, a senior Kenyan official has said.

Musalia Mudavadi, Kenya's prime cabinet secretary who also doubles up as minister for foreign and diaspora affairs, noted that six decades of Kenya-China cooperation has impacted positively on the East African nation in diverse spheres, including trade, infrastructure development, cultural and academic exchanges.

"We are celebrating 60 years of our independence and that is a period we have enjoyed cordial relations with the people of China," Mudavadi said during a recent interview with Chinese media organizations in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

Kenya's engagement with China has been at the heads of state level, Mudavadi said, adding that President William Ruto and two of his predecessors took deliberate steps to foster ties with Beijing.

Under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Kenya has benefitted from the construction of modern infrastructure projects like the Thika Superhighway, the 472-km Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), the 27.1-km Nairobi Expressway and several ring roads in the capital, Mudavadi said.

President Ruto was among African leaders who attended the third Belt and Road Forum in Beijing from Oct. 17-18. He met Chinese President Xi Jinping and the two leaders agreed to further cooperation on digital economy and clean energy, Mudavadi said.

Mudavadi noted that under the comprehensive strategic cooperative framework with China, Kenya has been inspired by the Asian nation's pragmatism in its execution of infrastructure projects overseas.

Kenya has also benefited from an influx of Chinese investors, he said, citing the Nairobi Global Trade Center constructed by Avic International in the capital city's upscale Westlands district as reaffirming the vitality of the two nation's partnership.

"We look forward to having more investors from China coming here and make this their launch pad for investments in the region," Mudavadi said.

He said that under the BRI, Africa's quest for long-term growth, integration and connectivity will be realized through the creation of seamless transportation corridors.

The Mombasa-Nairobi SGR, an early fruit of the Belt and Road Initiative, has enhanced mobility of cargo and passengers while stimulating commerce and growth of towns along its corridor, Mudavadi said.

While acknowledging Kenya's vast



renewable energy potential including solar and geothermal, Mudavadi said Kenya intends to partner with Chinese firms, develop these resources and realize 100 percent green energy access for its citizens.

There is huge potential for Kenya-China agricultural cooperation, especially in dryland farming, water harvesting and agro-processing, to boost food security and rural incomes, he said.

Kenya can also leverage partnership with China to spur industrialization, and promote cultural and academic exchanges that benefit local youth, Mudavadi said.

He said Kenya has gained from scholarships awarded by the Chinese government, alongside the development of sporting facilities in the last six decades of bilateral cooperation.

"If we want to improve the lot of our people, we must engage robustly with the people of China," Mudavadi said.

He said that Kenya, as a free-market economy that has a robust stock market, a highly educated workforce and flexible

regulations, is an ideal destination for Chinese investors.

In the future, Kenya aims to engage with China and spur the growth of critical sectors like information and communications technology, manufacturing, health and housing, Mudavadi said.

He noted that Kenya is on the frontline of the climate crisis, and green investments from China are welcome to boost the resilience of local communities and their livelihoods.

The China-proposed Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative and Global Civilization Initiative align with Kenya's commitment to peace, stability, and shared prosperity for its citizens and neighboring countries, Mudavadi said. ■

<https://english.news.cn/20231214/095745431fd46f0afcb790401160b40/c.html#:~:text=Musalia%20Mudavadi%2C%20Kenya's%20prime%20cabinet,development%2C%20cultural%20and%20academic%20exchanges.>

## Remarks by H.E. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi

**H**is Excellency Amb. Zhou Pingjian, Ambassador of the Peoples Republic of China to Kenya

Honourable Members of the National Assembly and the Senate,

Ambassadors and High Commissioners,

Senior Government Officials,

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Friends of Kenya and China

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take this opportunity to extend warm welcome to all distinguished guests to this Reception marking 60 years of friendship between Kenya and China. Coming just two days after Kenya's 60th Jamhuri Day, today represents the culmination of many years of consistent, trusting, collaborative, and mutually beneficial partnership between Nairobi and Beijing.

It bears remembering that this month, six decades ago, China opened its Embassy in Nairobi only two days after Kenya gained independence, making China the 4th Country to establish Diplomatic Relations with Kenya.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two Nations, our relationship has grown by leaps and bounds and I have no doubt that it will continue to advance through shared prosperity and mutual understanding.

Kenya applauds China for its transformative initiatives in Kenya and Africa whose socio-economic impacts have been far-reaching. As one of the few

countries with a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with China, the highest form of Bilateral Relations, Kenya's developmental landscape has benefited the most from China's investment.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The recent Official Visit to China by H.E. President William Ruto to participate in the 3rd Road and Belt Initiative High Level Forum held in Beijing, China and the numerous high-level visits between our two capitals emphasizes the centrality of our Bilateral and people to people Relations.

China is Kenya's largest trading partner, largest source country of contracted companies and one of the most important sources of employment for Kenyans accounting for up to 50,000 Kenyans, hired by the 400 Chinese Firms doing business in the country across various sectors ranging from; infrastructure, ICT, manufacturing, and other service sectors. The recent decision by Chinese Authorities to admit Kenya's avocados and other green produce into the Chinese market is a boon to our horticultural farmers.

China's tourist arrivals to Kenya is also on the rise and Kenya is implementing deliberate measures to tap into the more than 100 million Chinese tourist market.

China is also undoubtedly Kenya's leading infrastructure development partner with signature projects including the Nairobi Expressway, the Thika Super Highway,

and the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), to name a few.

These projects have not only opened up the country for more investments, and spurred economic activity, but have also eased connectivity between centers of commerce with people.

Excellences, friends, ladies and gentlemen,

China has been a reliable partner in Healthcare. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Kenya, like many other countries in the continent benefited from China's generous offer of vaccines and other protective equipment.

The effects of climate change have continued to threaten people and their source of livelihoods, particularly in the Horn of Africa.

China has been a "friend in deed" to Kenya during these difficult times, through relief endowment and funding of agricultural projects to enhance food security in Kenya and the region.

The resilience, support and determination demonstrated by both our nations during difficult global times have reinforced the strength of our friendship.

Our collaboration in addressing global challenges such as climate change and public health crises is a testament to our shared commitment to the greater good.

Cooperation between Kenya and China continues to thrive in the fields of science and technology, education and capacity building, along with people-to-people exchanges. As a matter of course, the first

Chinese Cultural Centre in Kenya will soon be realized.

China and Kenya may be different when it comes to stage of development and social system, historical and cultural background, size of territory and population. However, our two countries share the aspiration to rapidly modernize, industrialize, and move as many of our citizens from dependency and are therefore committed to forging win-win cooperation that will unlock shared prosperity.

Looking back on the development of Kenya-China relations over the past 60 years, we can say the basic principles of Equality, Mutual Trust and Respect have made this partnership strong enough to weather any kind of challenge.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our two Nations have maintained good cooperation in international and regional issues. Kenya and China both attach great importance to upholding the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, equitable and fair multilateralism and the promotion of unhindered trade relations between nations. Kenya is unapologetic in its support for the One China Policy which is grounded on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We shall work together with China and other friendly nations to address the complex and intersecting global challenges of our time ranging from peace and security in the region, climate change-induced crises and food security.

The Chinese saying and I quote "to enjoy

a grander sight climb to a greater height," is a truism. As Kenya and China diplomatic relations marks the 60th year, we must mobilize every opportunity to bring the Kenya – China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to higher heights by embracing integrity-based cooperation and green development that meet the demands of the present while securing sustainable futures.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please join me in a toast,

Here 's to the friendship between Kenya and China,

And to the brighter and prosperous future of Kenya-China – relations!



## For China-Kenya Ties, 60 is just but a Number



**T**hat China and Kenya's relations are a benchmark of steadfast ties both in Africa and globally is not in doubt. The strategic partners have ignored distractions undertaken through misinformation by certain global spheres, and unapologetically entrenched and grown their formal relations for decades now.

Indeed, the ties that bind China and Kenya are deep-rooted, dating back more than 600 years ago when Zheng He, the great navigator of the Chinese Ming Dynasty, set foot on the eastern coast of Kenya. China was among the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with the Republic of Kenya a couple of days after the latter's independence on December 12, 1963. In 2017, Chinese President Xi Jinping and then Kenyan President, Uhuru Kenyatta, upgraded the bilateral relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

The meeting in October between Kenya's

President William Ruto and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, during the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing underscored the importance of both partners to one another. On July 22, President Ruto and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi had set the stage when the latter made an official visit to Nairobi, Kenya's capital, with both sides pledging to deepen Belt and Road cooperation.

For decades, China has been one of Kenya's major trading partners in Africa and a major source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Data from the Kenya Investment Authority published in September shows that FDI from China to Kenya currently stands at \$348 million, which the government plans to increase by 10 percent. These investments have been crucial in growing Kenya's Gross Domestic Product and offering thousands of direct and indirect jobs to Kenyan youth.

In following up on China's promise of

opening its vast market wider to foreign traders and investors, the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI), the country's trade lobby, recently opened an office in Changsha, capital of China's Hunan Province. KNCCI has an estimated 600 exporters on its database, who are expected to take advantage of this window by showcasing their products and seeking investment opportunities. Moreover, the members will benefit from capacity building and visits to modern factories in China.

In 2021, China's net exports to Kenya included machines, textiles and metals. Conversely, Kenya's net exports to China included mineral products, vegetable products, and animal hides. In between, there are hundreds of products moving both ways daily, a lifeline for millions of citizens in the two countries.

It has been six decades of unswervingly supporting each other in safeguarding their national sovereignty and territorial integrity, safeguarding their legitimate rights and interests, and exploring development paths suited to their national conditions. None of the two countries are looking for validation from any external party. The partners understand they live in a world with a shared future, even though they practice different political, social, and economic ideologies. That is the height of mutual respect and win-win cooperation.



The tightening of ties between China and Kenya has been both by design and by default. From independence, China saw Kenya's rising star and, as a fast-developing country itself, decided to support the former's national development. Reeling under shifting goalposts disguised as aid conditions, Mwai Kibaki, Kenya's former president and architect of Vision 2030, the East African country's development blueprint, declared that it was time to look to the East for more realistic and empathetic development aid partners.

In the last two decades, China has been instrumental in helping Kenya to fast-track its infrastructural development as part of both bilateral and multilateral ties. Some of the iconic mega Chinese funded and constructed infrastructural projects include the Thika Superhighway, the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), the Nairobi Express Way, the Port of Mombasa, and the ongoing Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) corridor. These projects are also a core component of China's intercontinental Belt and Road Initiative.

Culturally and politically, the chemistry between the two partners has created exemplary rapport. China and Kenya have shared significant people-to-people exchanges in several fields, with thousands on either side experiencing what the other has to offer in, among others, education, tourism, tours, and conferences. This has created mutual understanding and amity.

An international symposium held this year under the theme, "Comparative Study of Chinese and African Civilizations", convened by the China-Africa Institute and the Chinese Academy of History

noted the establishment of policy, connectivity, and intellectual frameworks that are currently promoting arts and culture between the two partners.

In the words of President Xi Jinping in his congratulatory letter to the third Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilizations and the first World Conference of Sinologists held in July, "cultural exchanges will transcend estrangement, mutual learning will transcend clashes, and coexistence will transcend feelings of superiority so that human civilizations can make progress."

Neither country interferes with the internal affairs of the other. While the West has criticized China's stance for allegedly overlooking the perceived ills of its partners in negotiating and offering development aid, the Asian giant has suffered immensely from the West's meddling. No amount of blindsiding will create a wedge between China and Kenya relations. ■

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2023-12-14/For-China-Kenya-ties-60-is-just-but-a-number-1pwNjPNCN68/index.html>



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