



**Address by Her Worship, the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Fawzia  
Peer on the Occasion of the 67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Founding of the People's Republic of China**

**29 September 2016 - 17h30  
Maharani Hotel**

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- Programme Director,
  - Honourable MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mr Sihle Zikalala,
  - Consul General of the People's Republic of China, Mr Wang Jianzhou,
  - Speakers in different topics,
  - Distinguished guests and dignitaries,
  - Ladies and gentlemen,
  - All protocol observed,

## **Esteemed guests and dignitaries, good evening!**

I am honoured to celebrate with you the 67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is a great milestone reached by the Chinese people.

The National Day of the People's Republic of China is celebrated annually. In the year 1949, the Chinese Government passed the Resolution on the National Day of the People's Republic of China, declaring 1 October as the National Day of China.

Just like China, South Africa also has a rich history. Your celebrations come at a time when our country commemorates Heritage Month, a time to showcase our diverse cultures and traditions.

As we celebrate this auspicious occasion with our counterparts, I must mention the relations between China and South Africa to show friendship and co-operation between the two countries.

These two countries - as part of BRICS - have forged ties and signed strategic agreements which aim to strengthen bilateral relations, trade co-operation and create sustainable investment opportunities between the two countries.

Our two countries have a wealth of knowledge and expertise to share with each other through working together using established structures which have been put in place to strengthen our partnership.

Interestingly, too, our Municipality has a Sister City partnership with the City of Guangzhou in China. The work of South Africa and China through the BRICS grouping is helping reform the global political and economic architecture.

Chinese businessmen and companies have invested millions in our City and province of KwaZulu-Natal. This in turn, contributes to economic growth, job creation and skills development, also making us a global investment-friendly City and province.

This year, we welcomed Yangtze Optics Africa Cable, a Chinese-owned optical fibre cable manufacturing facility in South Africa. This company invested approximately R150 million towards the construction of this facility at the Dube Trade Port.

Earlier this month, KwaZulu-Natal sealed a trade deal with China with the aim of attracting investors and foster international economic integration.

During a visit from a high-powered Chinese delegation, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed to formalise the working relationship between Guangdong province in China and our province.

So ladies and gentlemen, we look forward to working hard towards achieving Foreign Direct Investment to contribute to the economic growth of both provinces.

This is how we are going to collectively drive a progressive global economic agenda.

In closing, I wish our Chinese counterparts on their 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary. May the People's Republic of China celebrate more years of prosperity.

**Thank you!**