

Remarks by H.E. Mr. Qiu Bohua
Chinese Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho
At the Launching Ceremony of the Satellite
Connectivity of Radio Lesotho, Ultimate
Radio and Lesotho Television
(Apr. 7, 2008-Maseru)

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili,
Hon. Minister of Communications, Science and Technology Mr.
Mothetjoa Metsing,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, it is my great honor to attend this ceremony to witness a wonderful and exciting performance of Lesotho radio and television. First of all, I would like to express my warm congratulations to the Government of Lesotho for her remarkable achievements in developing radio and television system which China is a cooperation partner and assistance provider. We are pleased to note that by satellite connection, Lesotho will link closer with the outside world while the world will get to learn more about the beautiful Kingdom of Lesotho.

In recent years, thanks to the concerted efforts, China and Lesotho have maintained frequent high-level exchange of visits, especially the visits by the Right Honorable Prime Minister to China have further deepened bilateral practical cooperation in various fields and promoted development of our traditional friendship. The Sino-Lesotho relations have been growing steadily and smoothly. As a good friend of Lesotho, we are proud of and glad to share every success and progress attained by the Basotho people. Chinese Government highly appreciates that the Lesotho Government has been firmly upholding One-China Policy and staunchly supporting China's Just cause of national reunification.

In 2006, the success of the Beijing Summit of FOCAC which the Right Honorable Prime Minister attended opened a new chapter in the history of Sino-Africa relationship. In order to fully implement the Summit outcomes and support African countries including Lesotho to speed up their social and economic developments, various follow-up programs have been taken in all fields, and new progresses have been made in Sino-Lesotho cooperation, such as: the project of Lesotho new Parliament Building, FM& TV Network Expansion, Mushroom Cultivation Technology Demonstration Centre, two rural secondary schools, National Telecom Network Expansion with the Chinese Government concessional loan, and the undergoing investment by Chinese firm in brick-making, etc. All these will be no doubt an injection with new vigor into our bilateral relations.

Among the projects mentioned above, the on-going project of FM&TV Network Expansion is one important program. The Chinese Government has attached great importance to this project, since the expansion of the coverage of radio and television network will bring direct benefits to the Basotho people. With this knowledge, we will encourage the Chinese company to try every means possible to accelerate the completion of this project in good quality.

I would like to take this opportunity to give our appreciation to Hon. Minister of Communications, Mr. Metsing and P.S. Communications, Mr. Mokela for their valuable supports and cooperation with Chinese construction team. We believe that given such encouragement, the Chinese company will overcome whatever difficulties ahead and build this project as a milestone of our friendship in bilateral cooperation.

In conclusion, I would like to assure you once again that China would continue, within its best capacity, help Lesotho in its efforts

to build up self-development capability and work closely with the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho to further expand our bilateral cooperation. Bearing this in mind, now I would like to wish the Kingdom of Lesotho continued success, peace and prosperity.

Thank you.