

**STATEMENT MADE BY HON. ANNOH-DOMPREEH FRANK,**  
**MP FOR NSAWAM-ADOAGYIRI AND CHAIRMAN FOR FOREIGN**  
**AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, ON**  
**GHANA-CHINA BILATERAL RELATIONS (THE NEW DAWN)**

1. Ghana-Chinese bilateral relations will continue to grow.

Ghana over the years has positioned itself as one of the most attractive countries in the African Sub-region, for nations to consider it worthy of trust and association. The nation Ghana, since independence has entered into many bilateral relations with countries that had benefitted it till date.

2. One country, which had stood by Ghana since it became a Republic State in 1960, is the People Republic of China (PRC). Many are the values both countries had gained from this diplomatic relations. The beauty of such relations is what Bertrand Russell describes *“The only thing that will redeem mankind is cooperation”*.
3. The two countries have complimented each other in development and diplomatic supports for decades. In fact, China had been instrumental with the construction of some important and beautiful landmarks of our beloved country. What bonds between China and Ghana together, connects its root to the late Osagyefo Dr Kwame Nkrumah, who lobbied the United Nations to reinstate the PRC and further supported it during the 1962 Sino-India War.
4. The Holy Bible admonishes us that two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls, his friend can help him up. But pity is the man who falls and has no one to help him up (**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**). Our ancestors hold this same belief that *“two heads are better than*

*one*”: “Ti-kro nko agyina” and the Chinese will better put it “Sān gè chòu píjiàng dǐng gè zhūgéliàng.”

We all agree that antelopes walk together for solace and solidarity, and so had our ties with China been.

5. As a nation, we believe strongly in the fact that the best partnerships are not dependent on a mere common goal but on a shared path of equality, desire, and no small amount of passion as Sarah Maclean points out. From all indications, the Chinese is not an alien to the Ghanaian, but a strong partner in development. Thus from Dr Kwame Nkrumah’s era down to Jerry John Rawlings, John Agyekum Kufuor, the late John Evans Fifi Attah Mills, John Dramani Mahama and now Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, our diplomatic relations with China continue to evolve each new day with a strong tie which we believe must be tightened and not broken till the end of time considering how useful it has been to the people of Ghana and the economy as a whole.
6. We have had visits from Zhou Enlai in 1960, President Hu Jintao, 2003, Premier Wen Jiabao, 2007 and the Vice President of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of China Zhou Tienong, 2011. These events took place after our Presidents had earlier made high-level visits to them. Latest of these visits, is that which was embarked by Ghana’s President H.E Nana Addo Danquah Akufo-Addo who strongly believes in Ghana’s needful partnership with countries around the world including China.
7. On economic reciprocation of these visits, we will recall that Premier Jiabao’s long haul to Ghana resulted in the signing of six agreements and a US\$66 million Chinese loan to expand and upgrade Ghana’s telecommunications network.
8. Since strong people do not put others down but they lift them up, the Chinese government has assisted their Ghanaian counterpart with US\$43.5

million between 1964 and 1970, and has written off US\$25 million of debt which Ghana sincerely appreciates and holds China in high esteem for. China has indeed proven to Ghana that it is not a nation that puts others down and pulls itself up but rather, it is a nation that wishes to go up on an equal tangent with every other nation regardless of the strength of the nation it is helping.

9. The China Export and Import Bank (Exim Bank) provided a grant of US\$622 million for the construction of Bui Hydro-electric dam. We have received up to US\$127 million interest free loan for the construction of Ofankor-Nsawam road, landing sites for fishing communities and the Afife rice project.
10. According to starrfmonline.com reports, China's investment in Ghana as at 2017 round-up to US\$123 million including the US\$50 million fund for the construction of the Jamestown Fishing Port Complex in Accra, which will soon commence.
11. Prospects between these two nations are unmeasurable, as at the end of last year, trade volume reached US\$6.68 billion from US\$5.6 billion in 2014 while Ghana's exports to China soar to US\$1.85 million, a percentage increase of 41.
12. Quite recently, our country under President Nana Akufo-Addo chalked another remarkable milestone with the signing of eight Ghana-China co-operation agreements to improve the various sectors of the economy, valued at US\$2 billion.
13. Mr Speaker, although some Members in the House, especially at the other side and in the general public do not cling to the idea to barter Ghana's bauxite in exchange for the US\$2 billion, I want to urge that we rather entrust our talents in the hands of the skilful than to bury them.
14. Mr. Speaker, at the just ended UN General Assembly, our President H.E Nana Akufo-Addo did put in context the renewed partnership with the

Chinese government, relative our fine relationship with the West. What is critical is our ability to stay focused, pursue the core interest and most importantly, resist all subtle attempt by any development partner to “manipulate and dictate” the pace of our development.

15. Ghana has long-standing relationship with China and I am convinced that this new agreement, is just another giant step to transform, enhance and fast-track our country’s developmental agenda.

16. Mr. Ban Ki Moon once said that *“One of the main lessons I have learned during my five years as Secretary-General is that, broad partnerships are the key to solving broad challenges. When governments, the United Nations, Businesses, Philanthropists and Civil Society work hand-in-hand, great things can be achieved.”*

17. We are promising China that our relationship will continue to blossom and remain strong from generation to generation as the gates of Ghana remain permanently opened to them. It is our ardent wish that God will continue to bind us together with strong cords that cannot be broken by anyone.

18. In conclusion Mr. Speaker, the SinoHydo-Agreement is a welcome news that needs a bipartisan approach with a singular view of ricking in the best interest for our county Ghana.

I thank you Mr. Speaker for the opportunity given.