



# THE SENATE OF PAKISTAN DEBATES

*OFFICIAL REPORT*

Thursday, May 23, 2013  
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## SENATE OF PAKISTAN

### SENATE DEBATES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

The Senate of Pakistan met in the Senate Hall (Parliament House) Islamabad, at twenty minutes past eleven in morning with Mr. Chairman (Syed Nayer Hussain Bokhari) in the Chair.

#### Recitation from the Holy Quran

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ-

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ-

وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ خَلْقَ الْأَرْضِ وَرَفَعَ بَعْضَكُمْ فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ دَرَجَاتٍ لِيَبْلُوكُمْ

فِي مَا آتَاكُمْ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ سَرِيعُ الْعِقَابِ ۗ وَإِنَّهُ لَغَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ ﴿١٦٥﴾

يَأْتِيهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا ۗ إِنَّ

أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ اتَّقَىٰ اللَّهَ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١٦٦﴾

ترجمہ: اور وہی ہے جس نے تم کو زمین میں نائِب بنایا اور تم میں سے بعض کو بعض پر درجات میں بلند کیا تاکہ وہ ان (چیزوں) میں تمہیں آزمائے جو اس نے تمہیں (امانتا) عطا کر رکھی ہیں۔ بیشک آپ کا رب (عذاب کے حق داروں کو) جلد سزا دینے والا ہے اور بیشک وہ (مغفرت کے امیدواروں کو) بڑا بخشنے والا اور بے حد رحم فرمانے والا ہے۔

اے لوگو! ہم نے تمہیں مرد اور عورت سے پیدا فرمایا اور ہم نے تمہیں (بڑی بڑی)

قوموں اور قبیلوں میں (نقسیم) کیا تاکہ تم ایک دوسرے کو پہچان سکو۔ بیشک اللہ کے نزدیک تم میں زیادہ باعزت وہ ہے جو تم میں زیادہ پرہیزگار ہو، بیشک اللہ خوب جاننے والا خوب خبر رکھنے والا ہے۔

(سورۃ الانعام - آیت ۱۶۵) (سورۃ الحجرات - آیت ۱۳)

## Translation:

It is He Who hath made you the inheritors of the earth. He hath raised you in ranks, some above others, that He may try you in the gifts, He hath given you. For thy Lord is quick in punishment. Yet he is indeed Oft-forgiving, Most merciful

O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female and made you into nation and tribes, that ye may know each other (Not that ye may despise (each other). Verily, the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you and Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things).

## Welcome Address by the Chairman Senate

Mr. Chairman: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ- Your Excellency Li Keqiang, Premier of State Council of People's Republic of China, distinguished guests from China, ladies and gentlemen. It is our great honour to welcome his Excellency, Premier Li Keqiang of the People's Republic of China on his first official visit to Pakistan. Premier Li Keqiang's decision to make Pakistan one of his first destinations is a symbolic of China's commitment to enhancing friendly ties with Pakistan. The visit follows important political transition in both countries and reminds us the all-weather and time-tested friendship between Pakistan and China remains unaffected by domestic or regional changes. Your Excellency, friendship with China remains a corner stone of Pakistan's foreign policy. Pakistan will always stand firmly behind China on all issues that pertain to China's core national interests. We regard any threat to China's sovereignty as a threat to Pakistan's sovereignty and we are grateful for China's principled and steadfast support for Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and economic

development. We look forward to maintaining the high level of political engagement that is the hallmark of this unique relationship. We must continuously expand and deepen cooperation in all areas of mutual interest. We should concentrate on enhancing economic cooperation through greater connectivity and trade linkages. Fostering greater cultural and student exchanges will help to bring our two people closer.

As Chairman of Senate of Pakistan, I look forward to working with his Excellency, Yu-Zhen Shen(g) Chairman Chinese People's of Political Consultative Conference, to intensify parliamentary contacts and exchanges between the two countries. Your Excellency, Pakistan fully subscribes to the China's vision of peaceful development and win-win cooperation among nations. Pakistan will work with China at every forum for the promotion of peace and stability in the region and the world. I wish you and Madam Li Keqiang health and happiness and hope that you have enjoyable and fruitful stay in Pakistan. I also pray for the peace and prosperity of the friendly people of China.

“Joan Bar Jo Ivan Sway” “جان باجو ایوان سوائے”

پاک چین دوستی زندہ باد۔

Thank you. I now have the pleasure and honour to request Excellency, the Prime Minister of People's Republic of China to address the Senate of Pakistan.

Address of His Excellency Prime Minister of the  
People's Republic of China

Excellency Mr. Li Keqiang (Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China): Your Excellency Mr. Bokhari, Chairman of the Pakistani Senate, your Excellency Madam Fahmida Mirza, Speaker of the National Assembly, Senators, ladies

and gentlemen and dear friends, I have the great pleasure to address the Pakistani Parliament on the occasion of my visit to Pakistan.

First of all, I wish to extend on behalf of the Chinese people our warmest greetings and best wishes to the brotherly Pakistani people. I wish also to express our heartfelt thanks and pay high tribute to friends from all sectors of the Pakistani society who have worked so hard over the years to promote friendship with China.

This is my second visit to Pakistan. Twenty seven years ago, I visited your country and traveled to some cities and villages in Pakistan. I had extensive engagements with many Pakistani people, from Pakistani Leaders to ordinary residents. Through these conversations and engagements or after my meetings and engagements with the Pakistani people, they always tell me one thing and which was also expressed by Chairman of the Senate i.e. long live China-Pakistan friendship. More than twenty years have passed, this expression is deeply rooted in my heart and in my mind and I have never forgotten this very important statement.

I feel deeply the profound friendship between China and Pakistan and the affection cherished by the Pakistani people towards the Chinese. My visit this time has strengthened my conviction of China-Pakistan friendship. I think that friendship is rock-firm and full of vitality.

Pakistan is a great country with time-honoured history and a brilliant culture. When civilization was still in its infancy in many parts of the world, a splendid ancient civilization had already risen on this land. The ancient ruins of Moenjodaro, the exquisite art of Gandhara, the legendary Lahore Fort and the magnificent Badshahi Mosque stand testimony to the rich and fascinating Pakistani

culture. The people on this land are hardworking, talented and courageous. Despite conflicts and disasters, they suffered from in the past centuries, they had forged ahead with tenacity and fortitude and created one miracle after another.

Since the founding of Pakistan over 60 years ago, the Pakistani Government and people have successfully met great challenges and made remarkable achievements in national development and renewal. We salute your success and sincerely hope that the brotherly Pakistani people will make even greater progress in their developing endeavours.

Pakistan is also actively involved in regional and international affairs and committed to upholding regional and the world peace and stability. With growing international standing, Pakistan is playing an important role in both Asia and the world at large. As an important member of the OIC, Pakistan is an influential country in the Islamic world. Pakistan has taken an active part in the regional cooperation process of South Asia. It stands for resolving differences through peaceful dialogue and works with other countries in South Asia to promote prosperity and development in your region. Pakistan is committed to upholding regional and international security and you have made important contribution in this regard. These efforts have won Pakistan recognition and respect of the international community. We are happy to see Pakistan playing an even bigger role in international and regional affairs.

Ladies and gentlemen, China–Pakistan friendly exchanges are rooted in history. The ancient Silk Road connected us together. In ancient China, two eminent Chinese monks Fahien in the Jin Dynasty and Huen Tsang in the Tang Dynasty studied and taught Buddhism in Pakistan marking an important page in the friendly

exchanges between our two countries. I worked as the Governor of China's Henan province. There is a temple in Henan called White Horse Temple. It is said that the first patch of Buddhist sculptures imported from South Asia is stored in that temple.

In 1951, China and Pakistan established diplomatic relations which ushered our friendly relations into a new era. In the past 62 years, the all weather friendship and all-round cooperation between China and Pakistan have stood the test of changing global development/environment and set a fine example for the growth of state-to-state relations. The following experience we have gained in growing China-Pakistan relations is an invaluable asset for both countries and should be carried forward into the future.

We treat each other with sincerity: Both China and Pakistan stand firm on principle and act in good faith. We respect each other, treat each other with sincerity and enjoy a high degree of mutual trust. Over the past half century and more, China - Pakistan friendly relations have grown in strength from one generation to another regardless of any change in the international environment or domestic politics. Ours is a brotherly friendship that has been tested by times of difficulties and forged by mutual trust. As our Pakistani friends have rightly pointed out, "we can give up gold but not our friendship".

We support each other and cooperate for mutual benefit. China and Pakistan share the same destiny and our hearts are closely linked. We stand together in both good and hard times and treat each other as brothers. We will never forget that our issues concerning China's core interest, Pakistan has always given China unreserved and valuable support. We will never forget for that. There are a lot of symbolic, historic events between our two countries. For example in the 1960s Pakistan International Airlines

(PIA) with the resounding statement, “PIA, First to China”, launched the first flight to China. This flight route served as an air corridor linking China with the outside world. We will never forget that after a massive earthquake hit China’s Wenchuan in 2008, Pakistan immediately provided all of its tents in reserve to China. On our part, the Chinese Government and people have always stood firmly on the side of Pakistan during the crucial and difficult times when Pakistan was endeavouring to uphold its sovereignty and independence, promote economic and social development and maintain regional peace and security.

The Chinese government and people are always too firmly on the side of Pakistan on these occasions.

We have forged close friendship based on popular support: China – Pakistan friendship is built on a profound and broad popular basis, and it is deeply rooted in the hearts of the two peoples. Chinese Netizens coined a new term on the internet. They refer to the friendship between China and Pakistan as aligned friendship, in other words it means China and Pakistan are now just as iron brothers and also choosing modern language or internet language in an era of rapid developments in information technology and high speed railway technology. China – Pakistan friendship is growing faster than a high speed railway. There is another popular saying on the internet that has greatly impressed me. “If you love China, please, also love Pakistan.”

Again a story in Pakistan has deeply moved the 1.3 billion Chinese people; near the city of Gilgit, there is a Chinese cemetery where over one hundred forty Chinese workers who lost their lives in the construction of the Pakistani section of the Karakorum Highway are buried. Some Pakistanis volunteered to work as the cemetery keepers and they have been working there for over 30



years. I was told that one of them passed away due to illness a few years ago, but his son immediately took over as the new keeper of the cemetery. Today, the young saplings in the cemetery have grown into towering/luxuriant trees. We are truly proud to have such a devoted and enduring friend and such a friendship that has been passed from generation to generation in Pakistan.

Ladies and gentlemen! Peace, development and cooperation are the underlying trends of our times. Our Asia has increasingly become one of the most dynamic regions in the world and the focus of international attention. Profound traditional friendship has laid a solid foundation for further growing our friendly relations and rapid changes in the world today call for lifting China–Pakistan comprehensive strategic cooperation to a higher level. On the other hand, the world is undergoing profound and complex changes and uncertainties and destabilizing factors are on the rise.

Our two countries need to build even closer ties and boost cooperation to jointly meet international uncertainties and complex challenges in Asia. We also need to enhance strategic communication. China is at a decisive stage of finishing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

To achieve sustained and a sound development and promote economic transformation and upgrading as well as to reach to unleash the dividends of reform, we need to deepen reforms, and open wider to the world, and westward opening is a major step taken by China in this regard.

Pakistan plays a unique role in China's endeavor to grow relations with countries in South Asia, Central Asia and West Asia. Pakistan's support and cooperation are important to China's development. Pakistan faces arduous tasks of economic and social development as the closest friend and the brother of Pakistan,

China will give you every support and assistance. We would do our best. To help you is to help ourselves.

For the strong complementarities of our economies and vast space for industrial development and the market expansion in both countries, it is highly necessary for us to strengthen cooperation. Our friendship and cooperation need the fundamental interests of our two peoples and are conducive to maintaining global peace and stability.

As an old Chinese saying goes, “friendship between chess playmates lasts less than a day, friendship between diners lasts less than a month, friendship based on power and influence lasts less than a year, only friendship based on shared values lasts a lifetime”. We are friends based on shared values. I believe it will not only last a lifetime but also be handed down from generation to generation; it will be an eternal friendship.

However, strong China may grow and come rain or shine we will always stand shoulder to shoulder with the Pakistani people as good neighbours, good friends, good partners and good brothers. We will firmly join hands with Pakistan. We will work with our Pakistani brothers to forge a stronger, deeper and most solid strategic partnership of cooperation.

We should deepen China–Pakistan comprehensive strategic cooperation: China and Pakistan should keep the traditions of frequent high level exchanges and enhance communication and coordination on issues evolving major interests of both countries. During my visit, our two countries will issue a joint statement on deepening comprehensive strategic cooperation. We should take this opportunity to step up all–round cooperation and enrich the strategic dimension of our relations.

Second, we should boost pragmatic cooperation: We should continue to make full use of the Free Trade Agreements (FTA), push forward the second phase tax reduction negotiations of the Free Trade Area and upgrade our business relations. We want not only to expand our trade relations but also achieve dynamic balance in our trade.

We are ready to work with Pakistan to speed up the project of upgrading the Karakorum Highway, actively explore and develop a long term plan for building a China Pakistan economic corridor thus expanding our shared interests. We will also work with Pakistan to launch major projects of cooperation, enhance financial and investment cooperation and focus our efforts on infrastructure development, connectivity as well as maritime, energy, agriculture and defence cooperation.

We should expand people to people and cultural exchanges: The Chinese government will continue to support bilateral exchanges and the cooperation in culture, public health, education, tourism and sports and between media and academic communities so as to strengthen popular support for China–Pakistan friendship. China highly appreciates Pakistan’s efforts to promote the learning of the Chinese language and will offer more help for such learning. In the next five years China will train 1000 language teachers for Pakistan and open more Confucius Institutes in your country. China will continue to support the exchange of the 100 member youth delegations and welcome more young people from Pakistan to visit and study in China. The Chinese young people who come and study in Pakistan will obey your laws, your customs and they will also take this as an opportunity to learn Urdu.

However, we both need to increase bilateral cooperation and increase coordination in regional and international affairs: China will

continue to work with Pakistan to enhance coordination, jointly uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, safeguard the overall interest of developing countries, promote democracy, international relations and dialogue between civilizations and work for a harmonious world.

Ladies and gentlemen; China–Pakistan friendship nurtured by our two peoples and fostered by several generations of Chinese and the Pakistani leaders and has stood the test of hardships. It is more precious than gold. To be friends forever is the shared aspiration of our two peoples. We should continue to forge ahead in both good and difficult times and work together to make new progress in growing China Pakistan all–weather friendship.

Now please let me say once again the phrase I learned 27 years ago in Pakistan in Urdu. **بھین پاک دوستی زندہ باد۔** Long live China Pakistan friendship. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Now I request Senator Aitzaz Ahsan to present vote of thanks.

#### Vote of Thanks from Honourable Senators

Senator Aitzaz Ahsan: Your Excellency Mr. Li Keqiang, Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of China. Mr. Chairman, honourable Members of the Senate of Pakistan, Ladies and Gentlemen. On behalf of the Members of the Senate, sir it is my great honour to welcome you in this august House and to present a vote of thanks for your address.

You have come to Pakistan at a monumental time, a time when the first ever peaceful democratic transition of power is taking place in Pakistan. The people of Pakistan have for long campaigned to create a structure exclusively based on democratic and progressive values. My party sir, the Pakistan Peoples’ Party has

been in the vanguard of the struggle despite odds. Therefore, we look at this process with a sense of triumph and achievement. Pakistan has much to learn from China which has achieved a human miracle of astounding proportion by achieving growth rates and bringing 400 million people out of poverty in three decades. Pakistanis look with anticipation and pride at confident, progressive and rising China considering its leadership role in the comity of nations.

Mr. Prime Minister and Mr. Chairman, a half century ago, three great leaders; Chairman Mao Tse Tung, Prime Minister Chou en Lai, and Chairman and Prime Minister *Shaheed* Zulfikar Ali Bhutto bonded the peoples of Pakistan and China in a friendship that was higher than the Himalayas and deeper than the deepest ocean. Succeeding democratic leaders in Pakistan, Prime Minister *Shaheed* Benazir Bhutto and Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari have only cemented that bond. President Zardari is the first leader of Pakistan to have visited China no less than nine times to make the bond a live and vibrant economic reality.

Sir, Pakistan-China relationship is indeed a unique one virtually bereft of any contentious issue. This, as the worthy Chairman described it, all-weather and time-tested relationship, has demonstrated its durability and resilience at many challenging moments of history. To us in Pakistan as the Chairman himself pointed out China's opponents are Pakistan's opponents. My colleagues also join me in renewing to your Excellency, our sincere greetings and assurances of our highest considerations.

We are confident that after your entering upon the high office of the Prime Minister of the Peoples Republic of China, the bilateral relations between our two countries will further be

augmented into a more comprehensive and all-round strategic partnership vital for effectively coping with common challenges and fulfilling shared aspirations of peace and development.

Excellency, your address to the Senate of Pakistan has been a most significant event. It provides yet another occasion to celebrate the high level of understanding between our two countries and it will also give impetus to our political and inter-parliamentary linkages because Parliament is the forum, we believe, in which the sovereignty of the people rests.

I may point out one thing in the passing Mr. Prime Minister that while I was reminded of an episode attributed to an illiterate Pakistani when he was listening to a speech being made by Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, the great leader of Pakistan. This illiterate man could not understand a word of what Mr. Jinnah, Barrister Jinnah was saying and somebody asked him, you are clapping, you are thumping and you don't understand a word of what has been said and he said, the old man said "all that I know is that what he speaks, he speaks from the heart, speaks the truth and his emotions are shared between him and me".

Excellency, because of a computer defect, I could not get the translation of a word of what you were saying but I knew that you speak from your heart, you speak the truth and you speak our shared emotions.

*(Thumping of desks)*

Senator Aitzaz Ahsan: I again thank Excellency Li Keqiang, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China, for gracing the Senate of Pakistan with your presence. Please also accept, Excellency, our best wishes for your personal well-being,

the progress and prosperity of the People's Republic of China and its people and the abiding friendship between Pakistan and China.

پاک چین دوستی زندہ باد Thank you.

*(Thumping of desks)*

Mr. Chairman: Now, I invite Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq to present the vote of thanks.

Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq: بسم اللہ الرحمن

الرحیم۔ Your Excellency Mr. Li Keqiang, the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China, Honourable Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, Chairman Senate, Excellencies, friends and colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, there cannot be a personal privilege and joy more profound and a moment more cherished than to stand here on the floor of Pakistan Senate and welcome in our midst a visionary statesman and a trusted friend of the stature of your Excellency Li Keqiang, the Prime Minister of People's Republic of China.

I take this opportunity to highlight your Excellency's distinguished credentials as a leader par excellence and a steadfast friend and supporter of Pakistan. It transcends the fact that he represents China at the highest level. The whole of Pakistani nation, the Parliament, the Government and the polity stand unanimous in conveying our Chinese friends and brothers that we consider friendship with China a priceless asset, a national pride that must be safeguarded through increased cooperation and proximity at all levels.

Excellency, your presence here in the nation's capital in these challenging times is a moving gesture steeped in the spirit of brotherhood, affinity and mutual respect. This shall for ever remain

etched in the institutional memory of Pakistan Parliament as both an emblem and furtherance of eternal Pakistan–China friendship.

Excellency, I am confident that your visit would not only help cement the fraternal and time tested ties between our two countries but also go a long way towards strengthening inter-parliamentary linkages and exploring new avenues of partnership and cooperation for the betterment of our peoples in this region and the world at large. Long live Pakistan China friendship. Thank you very much.

**Mr. Chairman:** Now I read the prorogation order:

"In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 54 (1) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, I hereby prorogue the Senate Session on the conclusion of its business on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2013.

Sd/

(Asif Ali Zardari)

President,

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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*[The House was then prorogued sine die.]*

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