

SPEECH
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**MALAYSIA AND CHINA ENTREPRENEURS CHINESE NEW YEAR
GALA DINNER**

24 JANUARY 2016 (SUNDAY)
HILTON HOTEL KUALA LUMPUR

Happy New Year and Gong Xi Fa Cai!

1. At the onset of the year 2016, I am delighted that we spent our time together with the entrepreneurs from the People's Republic of China and Malaysia. I believe New Year signifies a good start and a new beginning. It is my fervent hope that both countries diplomatic relations will grow even further in this year and we can have more ongoing cooperation in politic, economy and cultural aspects.

2. I believe that Malaysia will become one of the significant partners of China especially after PRC's President, His Excellency Xi Jinping has introduced the **“One Belt and One Road”** economic concept. I am sure that Malaysia can play an important role in the Maritime Silk Road of the 21st Century.

3. In the progress of developing the Maritime Silk Road of the 21st Century, inevitably, China will face with multiculturalism. Hence, China would require a strategic counterpart to assist in the transformation. I believe Malaysia will be an excellent partner as Malaysians are born in a multicultural society.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. Malaysia and China have always had an ongoing healthy relationship. Such examples are the Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park and the China-Malaysia Qinzhou Industrial Park, ASEAN-China Cooperation Demonstration Zone and many others.

5. At the moment, our global economy is currently experiencing a slow recovery after the 2008 financial crisis. Hence, the Gala Dinner today will be a platform for the entrepreneurs from China and Malaysia from both countries to discuss further on any possible cooperation.

6. I sincerely hope that each and every one of us present tonight would take the opportunity to promote trade relations and to develop more business opportunities amongst each other.

Thank you again and Salam 1Malaysia.