

China's Xi hails Honduras' "historic decision" to cut Taiwan ties

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday hailed the "historic decision" by Honduran President Xiomara Castro to switch the Central American country's diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing in March as the two met in the capital, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said.

Castro is making her first visit to China since the establishment of diplomatic ties between Tegucigalpa and Beijing, leaving the number of countries that officially recognize Taiwan at a record-low 13.

Xi pledged that China will "firmly support economic and social development in Honduras," the ministry said.

During Castro's six-day state visit to China from Friday, the embassy of Honduras was inaugurated in Beijing and a bilateral high-level business meeting involving some 200 delegates from both sides was held in the capital over the weekend, according to state-run media.

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