

Despite the fact that many members of the international community, regional activists and Burmese dissidents have criticized Burma's Sunday election, its first in 20 years, China said on Thursday that it hopes the election goes well.

"We hope the election runs smoothly and that Myanmar [Burma] will constantly promote democracy and development," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei was quoted by Xinhua news agency as saying.

Hong stated that for Burma to maintain internal social stability and hold the election successfully served the fundamental interests of the Burmese people and promoted regional peace and prosperity.