

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME,  
HIS EXCELLENCY RUNALDO RONALD VENETIAAN,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS BY  
THE AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA,  
HIS EXCELLENCY SAMUEL KOFI DADEY  
4 SEPTEMBER 2008**

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MR. AMBASSADOR,

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME, I AM PLEASED TO EXTEND TO YOU A SPECIAL WORD OF WELCOME AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME.

I RECIPROCATE THE CORDIAL FEELINGS OF FRIENDSHIP YOU HAVE CONVEYED ON BEHALF OF H.E. JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA, AND NOTE WITH PLEASURE THAT THESE FEELINGS CONSTITUTE A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR MUTUAL BENEFICIAL RELATIONS.

THE GOVERNMENT OF SURINAME BELIEVES THAT THESE RELATIONS SHOULD BE DEEPENED AND BROADENED. IN LIGHT THEREOF, WE ONCE MORE EXPRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING A SURINAMESE EMBASSY IN THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA AND ALSO OUR WISH TO WELCOME A GHANAIAN EMBASSY OR CULTURAL CENTER HERE IN SURINAME, AS THIS WILL SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE FURTHER DEEPENING OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

IN THE FIELD OF CULTURE, INDEED, OUR COMMON ANCESTRY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE ARE EXPRESSED BY CULTURAL AFFINITY, LINGUISTIC SIMILARITIES, CONCURRENCE OF SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND SO MUCH MORE. ALL THIS SHOULD FACILITATE AND MOTIVATE PRESENT GENERATIONS OF SURINAME AND GHANA TO STRENGTHEN THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP AND INCREASE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION.

COLLABORATION IN ACTIVATING THE AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT WILL BE ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS THE STRENGTHENING OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. AT THE SAME TIME WE OBSERVE WITH INTEREST THE COMMON BELIEF IN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AGRICULTURAL AND MINING SECTORS TO

IMPROVE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND LIVING STANDARDS. COOPERATION IN THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC SECTORS MAY ALSO PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR MORE ADVANCED BILATERAL RELATIONS.

MR. AMBASSADOR,

GIVEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE, AND IN VIEW OF YOUR PERSONAL RESOLVE I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE FURTHER EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. YOU MAY THEREBY REST ASSURED OF THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME. I WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS IN THE FULFILMENT OF YOUR MISSION.

IN CONCLUSION, I AVAIL MYSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND MY REGARDS AND BEST WISHES TO YOUR PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN AGYEKUM KUFUOR, AND TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA.