

**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 JAMAICA, HIS EXCELLENCY PETER BLACK
29 JULY 2008**

MR. AMBASSADOR,

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO EXTEND, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME, A WARM WELCOME TO YOU, AS NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF JAMAICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME. THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME AND JAMAICA STARTED THEIR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ON 26 NOVEMBER 1976. WITH THE PRESENTATION OF YOUR CREDENTIALS I AM CONVINCED THAT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES WILL FURTHER MATERIALIZE.

AS MEMBER STATES OF CARICOM, SURINAME AND JAMAICA ARE WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PEOPLE IN THE REGION. JAMAICA PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF EXTERNAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TRADE ISSUE FOR THE CARIBBEAN IS EVIDENT. WE ARE THEREFORE HAPPY WITH THE MANNER JAMAICA IS PERFORMING THIS TASK.

ON THE REGIONAL LEVEL SURINAME AND JAMAICA ALSO PARTICIPATE IN FORA SUCH AS THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA), AND THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STATES (ACS). WITH REGARD TO THE ACS, SURINAME FULLY SUPPORTS THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF JAMAICA AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CARICOM GROUP IN THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND THE VICE-CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TRADE, DEVELOPMENT AND EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

THE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN SURINAME AND JAMAICA ARE DEVELOPING STEADILY.

BUT THERE IS STILL MORE TO BE DONE IN ORDER TO TAKE OUR RELATIONSHIP TO A HIGHER LEVEL. TO THIS END, IT WILL BE USEFUL TO STRENGTHEN THE APPROPRIATE MECHANISM WHICH MAY PROMOTE THE COOPERATION IN VARIOUS FIELDS WHICH HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED SUCH AS AQUACULTURE, EDUCATION, ART AND CULTURE, TRADE AND TOURISM. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SAID MECHANISM BOTH COUNTRIES MAY EMBARK ON THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERTISE IN THOSE AREAS. THE AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION MAY BE OF USE TO THIS END.

MR. AMBASSADOR,

WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF SURINAME, I AM CONVINCED THAT YOU WILL SURELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE FURTHER DEEPENING OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

YOU MAY REST ASSURE OF THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF SURINAME TO MAKE YOUR ASSIGNMENT A SUCCESSFUL ONE.

I WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS IN THE FULFILLMENT OR YOUR DUTIES
AS NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR OF JAMAICA TO SURINAME.

MR. AMBASSADOR,

PLEASE CONVEY MY BEST WISHES TO THE HEAD OF STATE, QUEEN
ELIZABETH II, THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF JAMAICA.