

**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 FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA,
HIS EXCELLENCY MUSA JOHN JEN,
17 FEBRUARY 2009**

MR. AMBASSADOR,

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO WELCOME YOU AND TO RECEIVE THE LETTERS OF CREDENCE BY WHICH H.E. UMARU YAR'ADUA, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, ACCREDITS YOU AS THE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME.

I THANK YOU FOR THE CORDIAL GREETINGS YOU HAVE JUST CONVEYED ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT UMARU YAR'ADUA.

NIGERIA IS A COUNTRY WITH WHICH SURINAME HAS CULTIVATED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS SINCE JUNE 1980.

YOUR ACCREDITATION TODAY REAFFIRMS THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WHICH EXIST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND FORM THE BASIS FOR RAISING OUR FRIENDLY COOPERATION TO A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL LEVEL. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE AVAIL OURSELVES OF EXISTING FRAMEWORKS WITHIN BIREGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL CONTEXT TO FURTHER ENHANCE OUR RELATIONS OF COOPERATION.

OUR TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD ALSO EXPLORE THE UNTAPPED AREAS OF BILATERAL COOPERATION WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN IDENTIFIED SUCH AS MINING, AIR TRANSPORTATION, CULTURE, EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE.

AT BIREGIONAL LEVEL, OUR COUNTRIES ARE WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER ON THE AFRICAN DIASPORA PLATFORM AND IN THE AFRICAN UNION - SOUTH AMERICA MECHANISM.

COOPERATION AT MULTILATERAL LEVEL SUCH AS WITHIN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, SHOULD ALSO BE FURTHER INTENSIFIED.

MR. AMBASSADOR,

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES DURING YOUR TENURE AND I MAY ASSURE YOU OF THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF SURINAME IN THE FULFILMENT OF YOUR DUTIES.

PLEASE CONVEY MY REGARDS AND BEST WISHES TO PRESIDENT UMARU YAR'ADUA, AND TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA.

THANK YOU