

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME, HIS  
EXCELLENCY RUNALDO RONALD VENETIAAN,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS  
BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. WON - SUN CHOI,  
NON - RESIDENT AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF SOUTH KOREA, ON 19 FEBRUARY 2009**

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MR. AMBASSADOR,

IT IS A PLEASURE TO ACCEPT YOUR LETTERS OF CREDENCE. ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF SURINAME, I WARMLY WELCOME YOU AS NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH KOREA TO SURINAME. THE PRESENTATION OF YOUR LETTERS OF CREDENCE IS A REAFFIRMATION OF THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WHICH EXIST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

I THANK YOU FOR THE GOOD WISHES YOU HAVE CONVEYED ON BEHALF OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. LEE MYUNG-BAK, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH KOREA.

MR. AMBASSADOR,

SURINAME AND SOUTH KOREA HAVE BEEN CULTIVATING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS FOR 33 YEARS. IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP GOOD PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE PAST YEARS IN THE ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL, EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL FIELDS.

IN THIS REGARD, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MENTION THE 5<sup>TH</sup> SURINAME - SOUTH KOREA JOINT COMMISSION MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE ON 19 FEBRUARY 2007, IN PARAMARIBO. THIS MECHANISM, THE SURINAME-SOUTH KOREA JOINT COMMISSION, WAS ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES, SIGNED ON 28 JUNE 1982.

THROUGH THIS MECHANISM THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME WILL FOCUS ON STIMULATING, STRENGTHENING AND DEEPENING ITS PARTNERSHIP OF COOPERATION WITH THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH KOREA.

DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE 5<sup>TH</sup> JOINT COMMISSION MEETING PROVIDE AMPLE FOUNDATION FOR ENHANCING OUR COOPERATION TO THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES.

MY GOVERNMENT HIGHLY APPRECIATES THE SUPPORT TO SEVERAL OF OUR GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS, PROVIDED BY THE KOREAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (KOICA).

FREEDOM IS ONE OF THE CORE VALUES THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF SURINAME CONSIDER OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE. THEREFORE, WE ARE VERY PROUD THAT OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN HELPED TO DEFEND KOREA'S FREEDOM 59 YEARS AGO. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME VERY MUCH APPRECIATES THE "THREE SOLDIERS STATUE", WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH KOREA HAS DONATED TO THE PEOPLE OF SURINAME IN KIND REMEMBRANCE OF THE SURINAMESE SOLDIERS IN THE KOREAN WAR.

MR. AMBASSADOR,

I AM CONVINCEND THAT YOU, WITH YOUR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE, INSIGHTS AND DEDICATION, WILL SUCCEED IN MEETING THE CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENT. YOU MAY REST ASSURED OF THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF SURINAME.

IN CONCLUSION, I AVAIL MYSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SEND MY REGARDS AND BEST WISHES TO YOUR PRESIDENT HIS EXCELLENCY MR. LEE MYUNG-BAK, THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH KOREA.

THANK YOU.