

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME
H.E. RUNALDO RONALD VENETIAAN
ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 60TH INDEPENDENCE DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
19 AUGUST 2005**

Your Excellency Ambassador Suparmin Sunjoyo
Madam Suparmin Sunjoyo
Mr. Vice President
Mr. Speaker of the National Assembly
Members of the Council of Ministers
Members of the National Assembly
Members of the Corps Diplomatique
Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. Ambassador,

It is a very great pleasure for me to offer the warmest congratulations of the Government and people of Suriname to your President, His Excellency Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, to you, Mr. Ambassador and Madam Suparmin Sunjoyo, and to your staff, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Indonesia.

During the sixty years of its existence the Republic of Indonesia developed itself into one of the largest and strongest nations in the world. In these years Indonesia has also been successful in its efforts to bring higher levels of the quality of life to its people.

Mr. Ambassador,

Our bilateral relations are this year dominated by the commemoration of 115 years' Javanese immigration. In this light, I would like to mention that Suriname felt very honoured with the visit of the Sultan of Yogyakarta, His Royal Highness Sri Hamengko Buwono X, and Her Royal Highness Gusti Hemas, which has given an extra dimension to the cultural connectedness between our two nations.

In December next, 100 years of transmigration will be commemorated in Indonesia. Two representatives of Suriname have been invited to participate in the celebrations and to make a contribution to this special occasion.

Mr. Ambassador,

We are on the threshold of a new period of government. The agreements and programmes of cooperation existing between our two countries will be continued and substance will be given to the sectors identified, such as education and culture, technology, trade and economy.

Besides the cultural aspect of the bilateral relations, these programmes of cooperation are being coordinated within the framework of the Suriname-Indonesia Joint Commission.

At the multilateral level, this year, we will have to deal with the issues regarding the United Nations reforms which should bring this organization better in line with modern-day geo-political reality.

The many challenges confronting us, as nations, such as the fight against terrorism, necessitate us all to work expeditiously on the matters threatening the sustainable development and security of both developing and developed nations.

We must also focus on the impact of natural disasters on the health of people, the environment and the economy in the stricken countries and also in the rest of the whole world. In this respect I refer to one of the most disastrous natural disasters in human history, which has swept the South-East Asian continent and hit your country so badly.

We wish your country success in the process of recovery from the effects of this disaster.

Mr. Ambassador,
Madam Suparmin Sunjoyo,
Distinguished Guests,

May I invite you to raise your glass with me in a toast to the good and ever-growing cooperation between our two countries, and to the continuous prosperity of the people of the Republic of Indonesia.
