

FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

Dear Countrymen/women & Friends,

I must apologize for the unceremonious suspension of the newsletter. The initial plan was to publish it monthly but as you all know, we have been very busy during the first half of the year. This explains the temporary break in publication.

As has been repeated in various fora both in Ghana and abroad, the 50th independence anniversary of our country is a year-long affair. It's a period for all of us to re-examine various developments in our country especially in the areas of infrastructure, democracy, good governance, and the rule of law.

The Mission in Ottawa has, indeed, been very busy organizing and participating in Ghana's 50th Anniversary celebrations across Canada. To begin with, the Mission organised a grand diplomatic function in Ottawa on March 6 2007 to which several dignitaries both from the host country and the diplomatic community were invited. Officers of the Mission joined their compatriots in the celebrations within the various Ghanaian-Canadian communities.

We were in Edmonton, Winnipeg, Montreal, Calgary, Vancouver, Victoria, Toronto, Regina and Saskatoon as part of the Mission's efforts to ensure that it connected with Ghanaian-Canadians and was represented at programmes marking the anniversary. I have only recently returned from an 8-day tour of Northern Canada courtesy of the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) during which I had the opportunity to meet with a couple of Ghanaian-Canadian families in Yellowknife.

I must at this stage express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all Ghanaians and Ghanaian-Canadians throughout the country who extended the traditional Ghanaian hospitality to us during our visits. I am also very grateful to the Premier of Northwest Territories, The Honourable Joseph L. Handley, for arranging the meeting with the Ghanaian-Canadian community in Yellowknife.

We are still enjoying congratulatory messages from our friends and well-wishers; and numerous programmes are still underway. We are aware we still have a few more Provinces to go including Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

The 50th Anniversary celebration moved into a higher pitch in June 2007 with the announcement of an oil find off the west coast of Ghana. This, in effect, means that our country's economic, social and political fortunes will receive a further boost in the near future with the efficient and effective management of this natural resource.

The World Bank Global Governance Report for 2006 has cited Ghana as one of the top-ranking countries in key governance measures in sub-Saharan Africa.

As the country takes concrete steps to solidify its democracy, I would like to appeal to all Ghanaians in the Diaspora to endeavour to contribute meaningfully towards its development. As always, I would like to assure you that the Mission is willing and ready to serve you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mission hosted Ghana's Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Hon Kwadwo Baah-Wiredu, MP, on Friday June 22 after he participated in the International Economic Forum of the Americas/ Conference of Montreal from June 20th to 21st. Once again, we sincerely thank all our compatriots who responded to our invitation for a meeting with the Honourable Minister at the Residency in spite of the very short notice.

The Mission is in the process of conducting a survey of Ghanaians and Ghanaian-Canadians and is posting a questionnaire on its website. We respectfully implore you to consider taking part in this very important exercise. Additionally, we would urge you all to register with us at the Mission. We need to know you and be able to communicate with you. You may either register on-line following the link provided or you may download the form, complete it and post to the following address:

The Consular Officer
Ghana High Commission
One Clemow Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1S 2A9

Finally, it is our pleasure to announce that the Ministry of Tourism and Diasporan Relations has now launched the Joseph Project website which can be accessed at www.thejosephproject.com

On behalf of our President, His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor, the Ghana High Commission in Ottawa and Consulates in Toronto, Edmonton and Vancouver, and on my own behalf, I wish you all a HAPPY GOLDEN JUBILEE and the best of the season. God Bless us all.

(This edition covers March-June 2007)