

## ***FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER***

Dear Countrymen/women & Friends,

In this issue, I would like to focus on tourism and its effects on the Ghanaian economy. Tourism, as we all know, is one of the fastest growing industries in many developing countries especially as efforts at reducing poverty are yielding encouraging results. Currently, in Ghana, tourism is fast becoming the second foreign exchange earner. It is one of the industries with a huge potential for creating employment owing to its labour intensive nature. According to the 2007 budget statement, the government intends to embark on a strategy of domestic tourism promotion as part of endeavours aimed at promoting Ghana as a tourist destination.

Ghana's main foreign exchange-earner is still cocoa but the country now banks on a growth in its tourism potential to drive its GDP. The tourism industry has contributed significantly to the economic growth and development of Ghana. According to the Bank of Ghana, the main contributor to the sector was international tourism where spending increased by 46% and 68% in 2005 and 2006, respectively. Ghana's tourism attractions are categorized into the following:

**ECO-TOURISM:** primarily related to Ghana's natural ecology including its National Parks and reserves, beaches, lakes and waterfalls. Resources within the country's eco-tourism include the Mole National Park, Ankasa Nature Reserves, Kakum Canopy Walkway, Buabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary, Tafi Atome Sanctuary, the La Pleasure Beach, Mighty Beach, Ningo-Prampram-Ada and Brenu-Akyinim Beaches, the Volta Lake, Lake Bosumtwi and the Wli and Kintampo waterfalls.

**HISTORICAL TOURISM:** comprises features of historical significance such as the Cape Coast and Elmina Castles, Fort St. Jago (all of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites), Gwollu Defence Walls and Slave Trade relics at Assin Manso and Salaga.

**CULTURAL TOURISM:** a blend of both traditional and contemporary cultural values, expressed in our peoples' way of life and in various festivals including the Homowo, Odwira, Hogbetsotso and Damba. Cultural tourism also includes our art and craft (wood carvings, pottery, Kente, baskets and smocks).

**RECREATIONAL TOURISM:** Facilities for recreational tourism exist in the Volta Estuary for water sports, the Kwahu Mountains for paragliding and the sea and numerous rivers and lakes for angling and swimming.

**CONFERENCE TOURISM:** Facilities exist for domestic and international conferences. These include the Accra International Conference Centre and World class conference facilities at major hotels.

Marketing the tourism potentials of Ghana is not the sole responsibility of government. It behoves on every Ghanaian both in Ghana and outside the country to take

up the challenge of promoting our country. We can do this in our communities, workplaces, Churches and Mosques by encouraging ourselves and others to visit Ghana. While projecting the country, we need also to provide the right information and, when required, contact the Mission to assist.

There is no doubt that individual efforts of Ghanaians abroad could generate a huge surge in tourism numbers and figures to enhance our economy. By and large, the focus would not only be on marketing Ghana's tourism potential but also on directing investments and resources into the country to facilitate the development and growth of the economy.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Hon. Akwasi Osei Adjei, MP, has been appointed the New Minister of Foreign Affairs following the resignation of Hon. Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo-Addo, MP.

Following the announcement in the last issue, the Mission has now posted a registration form on its website. We need to know you and be able to communicate with you. We urge you to register with us by following the appropriate link on the Mission's home page. We request you to download the form, complete and submit it, once completed, by post to the following address:

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

Additionally, the Mission is in the process of conducting a survey of Ghanaians and Ghanaian-Canadians. As a result, we have posted a questionnaire on our website and respectfully implore you all to take part in the exercise by following the appropriate link on the Mission's home page, completing and submitting the questionnaire on-line.

We also announce for the information of our compatriots and cherished patrons that the Osu Children's Library Fund founded by Ms Kathy Knowles has a number of literary publications principally aimed at our children and young adults who either missed mainstream education or are desirous to learn something about Ghana. We encourage you all to consult The Fund's website: [www.osuchildrenslibraryfund.ca](http://www.osuchildrenslibraryfund.ca) and click on **Publications** to access and enjoy these books.

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 July-August 2007)