

Open Letter to the President of Suriname

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Her Excellency Dr. Jennifer Geerlings-Simons President of the Republic of Suriname
Presidential Palace Paramaribo, Suriname

Madam President,

I am writing to you as an ordinary citizen of Suriname.

Not as a politician.

Not as an economist.

Not as someone observing the country from a distance.

But as someone who lives within it — within its diversity, its complexity, and its quiet but constant tension between potential and reality.

Suriname is a country that often surprises those who look at it only from the outside.

It is small in population, yet vast in cultural composition.

It is resource-rich, yet economically constrained.

It is peaceful in its social structure, yet challenged by structural vulnerabilities that are deeply felt in everyday life.

When I walk through Paramaribo, I see a country that carries multiple identities at once.

Colonial architecture stands next to modern buildings.

Different languages are heard in the same streets.

Religious traditions coexist within a remarkably small geographical space.

This coexistence is not theoretical multiculturalism.

It is lived reality.

And it is one of Suriname's most important achievements.

At the same time, Madam President, the economic reality of the country is more fragile than its cultural one.

Suriname has significant natural resources — including gold, oil potential, and forestry — yet the translation of this wealth into stable and broad-based prosperity remains incomplete.

For many citizens, daily life is defined less by national potential and more by practical constraints: rising prices, limited opportunities, and uncertainty about long-term economic stability.

Young people in particular often face a quiet dilemma — whether to build their future here or abroad.

One of Suriname's greatest strengths is its social balance.

Despite deep diversity, the country has largely maintained peaceful coexistence among its communities.

That is not a minor achievement.

In many parts of the world, such diversity becomes a source of division.

Here, it has remained a source of stability.

But stability alone is not enough.

It must evolve into development.

And development must reach beyond macroeconomic indicators into households, families, and individual lives.

Suriname stands at a critical point where its natural resource potential could transform its future trajectory.

But this transformation depends not only on extraction or investment, but on governance, institutional strength, and the ability to distribute opportunity fairly.

Madam President,

The central question for Suriname is not whether it has enough resources.

It is whether those resources will become shared prosperity.

Because a nation is not measured by what it possesses underground.

It is measured by what its citizens are able to build above it.

Respectfully,

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P.S. A Citizen's Audit of the Country

- Stability and Security: 4.0 / 5

Suriname maintains a relatively stable political and social environment, with strong multicultural coexistence. Internal tensions are limited, but institutional capacity remains a key challenge.

- Economy and Standard of Living: 3.0 / 5

Despite strong natural resource potential, economic performance is constrained by structural issues, inflationary pressures, and limited diversification, affecting living standards.

- Social Well-Being: 3.5 / 5

Basic services exist and community networks remain strong, but education, healthcare, and infrastructure still require sustained improvement.

- Development and Future Prospects: 4.0 / 5

The country has significant long-term upside driven by natural resources, but success depends on governance quality and fair distribution of economic gains.

Final Score: 3.63 / 5 — A Resource-Rich Nation at a Turning Point

Suriname's future will be defined not by its resource wealth itself, but by its ability to convert that wealth into stable and widely shared prosperity.

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