

**REMARKS BY HON. SHIRLEY AYORKOR BOTCHWEY, MINISTER FOR  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION, ON THE OCCASSION  
OF A FAREWELL LUNCHEON IN HONOUR OF FVE OUTGOING  
AMBASSADORS OF THE REPUBLICS OF ZIMBABWE, SUDAN, THE STATE  
OF ISRAEL, SIERRA LEONE AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**Chairman and Members of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Foreign Affairs,**

**Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps,**

**Acting Chief Director and Directors of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration,**

**Distinguished Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is with great pleasure that I make these few remarks on the occasion of the farewell luncheon in honour of our departing Ambassadors who have completed their tours of duty, in the persons of:

**Her Excellency Mrs. Pavelyn Tendai Musaka,  
Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps;**

**His Excellency Mr. Babikir Elsiddig Mohammed Elamin,  
Ambassador of the Republic of The Sudan;**

**His Excellency Mr. Emmanuel Zeev Mehl,  
Ambassador of the State of Israel;**

**His Excellency Mr. Robert P. Jackson,  
Ambassador of the United States of America; and**

**Her Excellency Mrs. Umu Hawa Tejan-Jalloh,  
High Commissioner of the Republic of Sierra Leone.**

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is only appropriate on such an occasion to highlight the personalities being feted and their contribution towards our bilateral relations. Let me begin with **H.E. Pavelyn Tenadi Musaka of Zimbabwe.**

3. Ghana and Zimbabwe have had longstanding, cordial and fraternal relations dating from the days of the liberation struggle till independence which saw Ghana as one of the first countries to establish a Diplomatic Mission in Zimbabwe. Our deep historical ties were demonstrated through Former President Mugabe's marriage to a Ghanaian national, the late [Sarah Francisca] "Sally" Mugabe. This was a romance and union that was born out of the common African quest for independence from colonial rule and self-determination in dignity.

4. During the tenure of H.E. Pavelyn Tenadi Musaka as Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Ghana for almost thirteen years, relations between our two countries increased in all spheres. This has been evidenced in the highlights of our relations and high-level visits exchanged on both sides.

5. These include the participation of Former President Mugabe in the 60<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary of Ghana in March, 2017 and the holding of an Annual Trade Fair in Zimbabwe which has created a platform for greater interactions between the business communities of both countries. There have also been the exchange visits of senior government officials to share ideas, experiences and expertise on multi-faceted issues. These demonstrate our mutual commitment to taking Ghana-Zimbabwe relations a notch higher.

6. Ambassador Mrs. Tendai Musaka, who has diligently served as the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, exhibited strong leadership qualities and contributed meaningfully to the growth and success of our bilateral relations as well as in galvanising the diplomatic community in Ghana.

**Your Excellency, Ambassador Musaka,**

7. On behalf of the Government and People of Ghana, I wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to you for playing such a significant role in consolidating the foundations upon which relations between our two countries will continuously flourish in the spirit of African solidarity. We are hopeful that your successor will continue along the path you have charted and further solidify bilateral ties in all spheres for the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

**Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

8. Ghana and Sudan have enjoyed warm and longstanding relations which

date back to the early independence period. Subsequently, the reopening of the Sudanese Embassy in Accra in 2010 witnessed a new era of growth and progress in our bilateral relationship. Indeed, there has since been much more willingness and determination, on the part of both countries, to deepen cooperation at all levels.

9. I wish to, at this juncture, recall the bilateral meeting that I held with my Sudanese counterpart on the margins of the AU Summit in January, 2018, which culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Political Consultations. The signing of this Agreement unleashed a new impetus for higher levels of cooperation between Ghana and Sudan.

10. Relations between Ghana and Sudan have been further fostered by **Ambassador Mohammed Elamin**, who has since his arrival in Ghana four years ago worked diligently to strengthen ties between our two countries. He has also been very instrumental in exploring new ways of cooperation between our two countries in areas such as Culture, Tourism, Trade and Education. Hence, the visit to Ghana by the Minister for Investment of Sudan in 2017, as well as the hosting of the Sudan-Ghana Business Culture and Higher Expo in Ghana in 2017 are all testimonies to the contribution of **Amb. Elamin** to Ghana-Sudan relations.

**Your Excellency Amb. Elamin,**

11. I will like to use this opportunity to thank you for your invaluable contributions and efforts during the holding of the Permanent Joint Commission for Cooperation (PJCC) in 2014, the appointment of an Honorary Consul of Ghana in Khartoum in 2016 and the offer of scholarships to Ghanaian students to pursue various academic programmes in leading institutions in The Sudan. These are laudable initiatives for which the Government of Ghana is extremely grateful to you and the Sudanese Government.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

12. Ghana has, since the dawn of our nation in 1957, enjoyed fruitful and mutually beneficial relations with Israel. Ghana was the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to recognise the State of Israel. This was followed by the establishment of formal diplomatic relations at Ambassadorial level in 1958 and the opening of resident Missions in our respective countries.

13. I will like to use this opportunity to mention just a few of the projects that the Ghana-Israel cooperation have fostered in recent years: (i) the construction of the University of Ghana Medical Centre; (ii) the Accra-Tema Metropolitan Area Rural Water Rehabilitation Project; (iii) the Prabon Greenfields Estate in Kumasi; and

(iv) the inauguration of the Ghana-Israel Business Council.

14. The cordial bilateral relations between Ghana and Israel have also been evidenced in some recent high level visits to the State of Israel, including those of our Speaker of Parliament, Minister for Environment, Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection and that of the Minister for Agriculture. These visits during Ambassador's Mehl's tenure of office have undoubtedly enhanced and sustained Ghana's partnership with Israel in various fields.

**Your Excellency Ambassador Ami Mehl,**

15. During your term of office in Ghana, you have not only energetically pursued the interests of your country, but you have also promoted our shared vision for meaningful cooperation in various fields of endeavour, such as the energy, ICT, cyber security, agriculture and trade sectors. Thank you for the good work you have done during your time here, the many initiatives you have undertaken, as well as the projects you have facilitated and seen to conclusion. Indeed, your initiatives have laid the groundwork for long-term gains in our partnership, and you will be remembered through these projects as they yield dividends in the years ahead.

16. Your tenure also witnessed a considerable increase in technical assistance and the award of scholarships to Ghanaians to pursue courses in Israel, especially in the field of agriculture, in consonance with the Government of Ghana's related capacity building programme. Since 2016, over 100 Ghanaians have been offered scholarships to expand their knowledge and skills in irrigation, renewable energy, post-harvest techniques, among others. Ghana is indeed appreciative of such concrete collaborations with Israel, with a record achievement of targeted outcomes.

**Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

17. On behalf of the Government and people of Ghana, and on my own behalf, I wish to commend Ambassador Robert Jackson for his meritorious service, and his interest in forging closer bilateral cooperation between Ghana and the U.S. during his tour of duty. Let me also applaud him for an excellent diplomatic career spanning thirty-three years, during which he dedicated most of his time to service on the African continent.

18. I also convey special appreciation through Ambassador Jackson to the U.S. Government for its continued partnership with Ghana in various sectors of the Ghanaian economy through many initiatives and programmes. This includes,

especially, the areas of strengthening democracy and good governance, improving health services, education and poverty alleviation, as well as peace and security.

19. Indeed, he has proved to be one of the most industrious and innovative Ambassadors whose vision for the Ghana-United States relations went beyond ordinary day-to-day diplomacy. In particular, his shared desire to see a politically stable Ghana and the strengthening of our governance institutions cannot be over-emphasised. His immense contributions and personal commitment to deepening Ghana-U.S. relations will be remembered.

**Your Excellency Ambassador Jackson,**

20. Your tenure witnessed major achievements, such as an increase in trade volumes between Ghana and U.S.; an increase in the number of American companies operating in Ghana; the entry of Exxon-Mobil and Newmont Mining Limited into Ghana, the signing of the Millennium Challenge Compact II, as well as an increase in people-to-people interactions at all levels. Similarly, the number of U.S. tourists to Ghana and vice-versa increased.

21. We also recorded growth in the numbers of student exchange programmes, which strengthened our educational institutions and the cultural links between our two countries. These are a few results of the fruitful cooperation that has contributed to the growth and development of Ghana's economy and it is my fervent hope that such cooperation would be sustained by your successor for the mutual benefit of our two countries.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

22. Ghana and Sierra Leone have had longstanding cordial, historical and cultural ties, dating back to the pre-colonial era, borne out of trade and education. Our bilateral relations have, among other things, been hinged on our common membership of ECOWAS and our identification with its ideals, which enables us to engage on a myriad of issues.

23. Our two countries have always rendered support to each other in the pursuit of socio-economic growth, peace and security and political development. The commitment of both countries to the realization of our full potentials has created an impetus for increased cooperation in all facets of our endeavours.

24. The forging of a strong partnership between our two countries was strengthened by the signing of a General framework for Cooperation Agreement in December 2013. This has resulted in an effective and structured mechanism for

collaboration between our two countries.

**Your Excellency High Commissioner Uma Hawa Tejan-Jalloh,**

25. It is without doubt that during your tour of duty in Ghana, you have served well and your excellent leadership role has unearthed greater potentials for increased levels of cooperation between our two countries.

26. During your tenure, Ghana-Sierra Leone relations experienced rejuvenation and achieved a considerable level of progress, with the exchange of high profile visits, such as the participation of former President Bai Koroma in the investiture of President Akufo-Addo in January, 2017. There was also the participation of Ghana's delegation, led by the Speaker of Parliament, in the investiture of President Bio in May, 2018 and the visit to Ghana by senior government officials from Sierra Leone to share information and best practices with their Ghanaian counterparts.

27. Ghana appreciates your efforts, **High Commissioner Tejan-Jalloh**, for the tremendous strides you that have made during your tour of duty in Ghana. It is hoped that your successor will continue along the path of growth and development that we have fostered so far for the consolidation of Ghana-Sierra Leone relations.

**Your Excellencies, our departing Ambassadors,**

28. As we bid you all farewell, please note that while Ghana continues to lay a solid foundation for the socio-economic transformation which is necessary to make it more self-reliant, we will continue to count on your support and that of your governments towards the realization of the "Ghana Beyond Aid" initiative.

29. "Ayekoo" to all of you for contributing to the strengthening of the relations between Ghana and your respective countries.

30. It is time to say goodbye, but goodbyes while sometimes necessary can be sad. So I will rather say "hello". Hello, to the adventures that you will all be embarking on in your next occupational incarnations. I wish you the best in your future endeavours.

**Thank You.**