



HET VRIENDSCHAPSCOMITÉ SURINAME - CUBA
FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION SURINAME-CUBA

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**CONTRIBUTION FOR THE UPR
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Since the triumph of the revolution in 1959 Cuba went through a process of profound transformation with the objective of improving the social system so as to give the people full enjoyment of their freedom and human rights.

The friendly relations between Suriname and Cuba exist for more than forty years. As friends of the Cuban people the Surinamese people have always admired their heroic struggle and our people, in these last decades, have benefited in many ways from the achievements of the revolution.

The Friendship Association Suriname-Cuba, on behalf of the Surinamese people, will now use this opportunity to share with the world their experience arising from the bond of friendship with the Cuban people.

The designer of the Surinamese Flag, after our independence Mr. Jack Pinas, and our late National Poet, Robin Raveles(Dobru) where among the first friends of the Cuban people who paid a visit to Cuba.

In the seventies of the last century, after their return, the Friendship Association Suriname-Cuba was established and many other organizations in Suriname have followed these example and also showed their solidarity by establishing friendly relations with Cuba.

The present direction of the Association, who is in charge since 2007, is doing its utmost to show their sympathy and appreciation for the unselfish help our country still receives today. In doing so, our Association carries out different kinds of activities such as:

- Publication of a newsletter through which the friends of Cuba are being kept informed of the developments in Cuba,
- Reunion of our friends to express solidarity with the Cuban people on special anniversaries.
bv. On numerous occasions we have urged on the United States Government to lift the unjust economic blockade of fifty years because in our opinion this is an obstacle for the realization of human rights in Cuba, among others,
- Our organization condemns the injustice against the Cuban 5 and on numerous occasions we have demanded a just legal process.

Our gratitude to the Cuban people is inspired by the possibilities given to our people without obligations in the field of health care, education, sport, agriculture, technology, ICT and veterinary medicine.

Health care

By means of the “Milagro Project” thousands of financially weak persons in the urban as well as the rural areas of Suriname, who did not have the disposal of social security at all, were provided with ophthalmic aid.

- Large number of patients were send to Cuba and medical attention was given to them free of charge.
- The Cuban government placed at our disposal a number of medical experts in support of the medical care in Suriname.

The opportunity was given to patients who could not get medical treatment in Suriname to get specialist treatment in Cuba.

Education

For many years now the Cuban Government have given the opportunity to Surinamese students to acquire, free of charge, the necessary knowledge on an academic level in their field of interest.

Well-known is the fact that many graduates from Cuba are offering a substantial contribution to the development of our country under which doctors, pharmacists, engineers, economists, agriculturists, sports teachers, university lecturers and ICT experts.

Sports

In the field of sports we think of the opportunity given to many students to be trained on the highest level in the field of sport science. Cuba has provided trainers for the different branches of sport such as: chess. Volleyball, boxing, cycling, and athletics, in the districts as well as the remote areas of the country

Agriculture

Technical assistance for the *Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries* with regard to production increase, processing and export of agricultural produce.

Mining

Rendering of technical assistance by Cuba to the State Oil Company (Staatsolie Mij.)

Social Projects

- The low-energy light bulb project
- Exchange of cultural groups in the field of dance, music and literature.

The Friendship Association Suriname-Cuba welcomes the social economic transformations which Cuba as a sovereign country is carrying out.

The Friendship Association Suriname-Cuba is of the opinions that the sovereign state of Cuba needs all the space it can get to promote and defend the whole process of human rights on a peaceful way without interference in the country's internal affairs.

The Friendship Association Suriname-Cuba

The President

Mrs. Nadia Raveles