

Your Excellency, President Nikos Christodoulides,

Today, I have profound honour to present to Your Excellency the Letter of Credence by which H.E. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, the President of the Republic of South Africa, appoints me as Non-Resident High Commissioner, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Africa to the Republic of Cyprus.

Please allow me to take this opportunity to convey to Your Excellency the cordial greetings of H.E. President Ramaphosa and extend, on behalf of the South African Government and people, best wishes to the Government and people of Cyprus.

Your Excellency,

I stand before you carrying the warm wishes and aspirations of the Cypriot-South African community who bade me farewell as I left South Africa to undertake this diplomatic posting. As South Africa commemorates 30 years of freedom, we remember the incredible contribution made by Cypriots, who together with international community, stood in solidarity with our people in the fight against colonialism and apartheid.

It is within this context that I believe that both our countries have a shared commitment to peace, security, as well as the respect, application and enforcement of international law. It is also our fervent hope that the negotiations to address the Cyprus Issue, within the framework of the UN Security Council resolutions, will gain pace and lead to a sustainable solution.

Your Excellency,

I would like to congratulate Cyprus for its role as one of the founding members of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, including South Africa, as announced at the recent G20 Summit held in Brazil. As you will be aware, South Africa will host the G20 Summit in 2025. We hope that the work of this Alliance and your participation in it, will be enhanced in the oncoming G20 engagements in South Africa. The Alliance holds the possibility, among other vehicles, of strengthening our cooperation in addressing the persistent social development challenges of our times.

Mr President, I look forward to strengthening bilateral relations between our countries in trade and investment, including green energy, property development, retail and maritime transport. There are also mutually beneficial opportunities in science, health, education and sport cooperation. I firmly believe that, in my efforts, I shall enjoy the full support from Your Excellency and Your Government.

May the Republic of Cyprus enjoy prosperity.

May Your Excellency enjoy good health. I Thank you