



INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE (IFL)

IN MY CAPACITY AS THE CHAIRPERSON OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE (IFL), I HAVE THE PLEASURE TO ADDRESS YOU ON THE CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY, ON 26 SEPTEMBER, TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE WORLD WHEREVER THEY FIND THEMSELVES.

AS WE ARE ALL AWARE, IFL WAS FOUNDED IN 1931 WITH THE BELIEF THAT THE MOST VALUABLE APPROACH TO LIFE IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND CULTURES. IT THEREFORE AIMS TO ENCOURAGE FRIENDSHIP IN SEVERAL PRACTICAL WAYS SUCH AS ENCOURAGING CONTACT BETWEEN PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES THROUGH PENFRIENDS; OFFERING A PERSONAL WELCOME TO OVERSEAS VISITORS; ENCOURAGING MEMBERS TO REACH OUT TO THOSE OF OTHER CULTURES IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY AND JOINING OTHERS TO SUPPORT CHARITABLE PROJECTS TO HELP THOSE IN NEED AROUND THE WORLD.

IFL TRIES TO ENCOURAGE ITS MEMBERS TO MAKE FRIENDS NOT ONLY IN OTHER COUNTRIES BUT ALSO IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES, BY STEPPING OVER THE TRADITIONAL BOUNDARIES OF RACE AND RELIGION, TO LEARN ABOUT THE CULTURE AND VIEWPOINT OF THOSE WHO HAVE COME FROM A DIFFERENT BACKGROUND. IN SHORT, OUR ORGANIZATION WANTS EACH OF US TO KNOW THAT ONE CAN SEE A COUNTRY THROUGH THE EYES OF A LOCAL RESIDENT.

OUR MISSION IS TO SPREAD IFL'S MESSAGES OF FRIENDSHIP AND PEACE. THIS IS NORMALLY DONE OR CONVEYED AT SPECIAL EVENTS SUCH AS ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY; INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY AND OTHERS. CONSIDERING ALL THE CONTEXT WHEREBY THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL CONDITIONS AND OTHER EXISTING SITUATIONS DIFFER ENORMOUSLY FROM COUNTRIES TO COUNTRIES, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE SPREAD OF PEACE AND PROMOTION OF THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP BRING ABOUT REAL CHANGE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES; ACTIVITIES THAT BRING JOY AND HAPPINESS TO THOSE WHO ARE CONSTRAINED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER; THOSE WHO CANNOT SEE THE PATH TO FREEDOM AS

WELL AS THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES ECONOMICALLY AND SOCIALLY, IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS.

ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE, MAY I, ONCE AGAIN, REITERATE OUR COMMITMENT TO THE GOOD CAUSE OF IFL, A VERY IMPORTANT NGO IN TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT WHERE PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING BECAUSE OF DIVISION PLAGUED BY ALL KINDS OF INHUMAN ACTS.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO WORK HARDER IN ORDER TO DEVELOP FURTHER THE IDEALS OF IFL. TODAY, ON THIS IMPORTANT DAY, LET US TAKE ONE MINUTE TO THINK OF ALL OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS WORLDWIDE, WHO, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE POVERTY THROUGH DROUGHT AND FAMINE, INSECURITY, VICTIMIZATION, ARE DEPRIVED OF THEIR RIGHTS, FREEDOM AND PEACE; THOSE WHO NEED CAPACITY AND SKILLS TO ENGAGE IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES FOR THEM TO BECOME ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT AND WORK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THEIR FAMILIES, AND ALSO THOSE WHO CANNOT SEE THE LIGHT OF THE DAY.

IFL MAY BE THE ANSWER IF MEMBERS REALLY WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES WHEREVER THEY MAY BE AND MAKE SERIOUS COMMITMENTS INFRONT OF TODAY'S CHALLENGES.

IN CONCLUSION, MAY I, ONCE AGAIN, AVAIL OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE IFL INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE AND ALL ITS MEMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND CONTINUOUS COMMITMENT TOWARDS IFL'S MISSION IN MAKING THEIR COMMUNITIES A BETTER PLACE.

WISHING YOU AN ENJOYABLE 'INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY' FULL OF REFLECTION.

MARIE-NELLA AZEMIA
CHAIRPERSON OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE (IFL)