

Madam Chair,
Distinguished Guests!

I hope you will not interpret my contribution as "all doom and gloom"!

I hope it will serve to highlight the need to constantly review our laws to take account of our ever changing national development environment, as well as international expectations - because there is a time in the affairs of men, if not taken advantage of, will lead to misfortune!

Distinguished guests, I have taken some time during my presentation to also highlight the Interim Government's policy with regard to the development of resourced based industry especially as they relate to forestry and fisheries.

Government is committed to genuine engagement with resource owners in the development of their resources in a sustainable and well managed manner, so that resource owners participate meaningfully of the benefits that should accrue to them.

Government is obliged and committed to that policy, and we are not prepared to see resource owners merely as "spectators ^{to} a passing parade."

Madam Chair, Distinguished Guests - Thank you for listening!