

Proclamation

Year of Return, Ghana 2019

WHEREAS 2019 marks the 400-year anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans to English North America in 1619;

WHEREAS 75% of the Slave Castles built on the West Coast of Africa were built in Ghana;

WHEREAS the Government of the Republic of Ghana has, under my leadership, made it a National Priority for Ghana to actively engage the effects of forced and voluntary migration of Africans to the Global North and to extend a hand of welcome home to Ghana to Africans in the Diaspora defined both as Ghanaians living abroad and people of African descent dispersed through the world as result of the Trans Atlantic slave trade ;

WHEREAS the 115th US Congress Resolution HR 1242 states "This bill establishes the 400 Years of African-American History Commission to develop and carry out activities throughout the United States to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Africans in the English colonies at Point Comfort, Virginia, in 1619";

WHEREAS WE ARE still in the early years of the International Decade for People of African Descent, proclaimed by the UN General Assembly and themed "People of African descent: recognition, justice and development";

WHEREAS Ghana has more African Americans living in the country than any other African country;

WHEREAS Ghana's Immigration Law grants that a person with the Right of Abode "shall be free to live and to come and go into and from the country without let or hindrance" and

WHEREAS the Right of Abode Law confers specific eligibility to "A person of African descent in the Diaspora.."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NANA ADDO DANKWA AKUFO-ADDO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA hereby Proclaim 2019 as the
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