



**PRESIDENT WAYNE FORDE'S ADDRESS AT THE FINALS OF THE SENIOR
LEAGUE OF THE RUPUNUNI FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (RFA) HELD AT THE
GUYANA RUSH SAINTS FOOTBALL GROUND IN LETHEM, REGION 9 ON
SUNDAY, 16TH JULY, 2017**

My esteem colleagues, President Ken Grant,
Members of the RFA Executive Committee,
The Honorable Mayor,
The Honorable Regional Chairman,
Officials,
Players,
Friends of football,
Ladies and gentlemen.

It is indeed a pleasure for me to be here today to witness the finals of the Rupununi Football Association's Senior League.

I bring you warm greetings on behalf of the Executive Committee of the GUYANA FOOTBALL FEDERATION and our hard-working Technical Director, Mr. Ian Greenwood.

I am humbled and moved by the kind and friendly welcome extended by your President and his team upon my arrival. They are a fine example of the warmth and hospitality the people of the Rupununi are known for. Thank you President Grant, thank you all.

Today's final is a historic occasion on two fronts; it is the very first time a sitting GFF President has graced this event with his presence and it is also the very first time that a FIFA-accredited Referee will be officiating a League finals in the Rupununi. This is undoubtedly a proud moment for hinterland football but more importantly, a proud moment for the tremendous work of President Grant, a man that I have come to admire and respect. He has shown us all what good leadership can accomplish and the Executive Committee of the GFF holds him in high esteem.

We will continue to support and guide the RFA, they are the embodiment of the values and vision of the GFF Executive Committee. They are serving the interests of the players.

Football is bread and life to the peoples of the Rupununi and the wider hinterland communities. It is much more than a pass-time activity, it is in fact, the soul and passion of every boy, every girl, man and woman.

This reality is not lost on my Executive Committee. The GFF has four Academy Training Centers throughout the Rupununi that are being managed by Technical Development Officers (TDOs) and Youth Development Coaches (YDCs). This programme is funded by the GFF, with support from Scotia Bank. Today Mr. Dion Inniss Executive member of the GFF is in Region 1 on a fact-finding mission. He will be meeting with leaders of the communities to initiate the membership process. Region 1 will become a member Association in the coming months and we will be establishing an Academy Training Center there as well.

This is what football development should look like, we are doing our best to make up for many years of neglect. I promise you that I will not rest until the leadership of this Nation recognizes the human development power of football and its value to the peoples of the hinterland Communities.

The Football leaders of the past offered excuses, my Executive offers practical solutions to accessing the talent of the hinterland. We have the courage to confront the challenges that for many years have suffocated the development of football within the hinterland communities.

I would like to wish the teams and officials good luck in what will no doubt be an exciting final.

May almighty God bless us and keep us as we continue to toil for the beautiful game.

Thank you.

Wayne Forde (Mr.)

President – Guyana Football Federation (GFF)