

CNS Cari-Sur News Service

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With weeks to go before the nation elects a new government, the 1987 Suriname Constitution, which has been amended and ratified since the close of military rule and the return of democratic institutions, has been professionally translated and published for the first time in English.

The publication is the work of the Waterfront Press in collaboration with the independent Katome Foundation, among whose principal aims are the removal of language barriers and the promotion of higher translation standards and language skills.

According to Monique Pool, one of the two translators and a principal in the Waterfront Press, “The English translation of the Surinamese Constitution is the first of a series of publications the purpose of which is to make Surinamese law and regulations accessible to non-Dutch speaking peoples. This is a significant first step and achievement given Suriname’s new hemispheric policy of regionalism, vis-a-vis our recent entrance into the Caricom and the Association of Caribbean States.”

The neatly bound, peach coloured book does not cut the expected drab and sober profile of a legal publication. Its loose-leaf binding design format makes for the easy addition of amendments and changes to the law in the years ahead.

Annette Tjon Sie Fat, the other translator, said, “This publication is not only for barristers, attorneys or legal practitioners. With trade liberalizations and investment opportunities, we realize that this book will be read by members of the business community, political observers, diplomats, students of international affairs, ordinary readers and persons interested in Suriname.”

The Katome Foundation expects to present formally a copy of the new book to Caricom Secretary General Edwin Carrington in Georgetown.

Already on the translating boards are the new Electoral Act of Suriname and the Banking Regulations both of which are planned for release later this year.

Both translators have had extensive training and years of experience in the translation of legal and legislative texts and documents. Pool is fluent in Russian, Dutch, English and French, while Tjon Sie Fat works in English and Dutch. In keeping with their commitment to upholding international standards of excellence, the finished proofs are submitted and reviewed by native speakers, jurists and experts in their respective subject areas, prior to final publication

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