

# Official Minutes for AfroEuro Townhall Meeting with Ambassador H.E. Ron Strikker - The Dutch ambassador in Ghana

## *Introduction of Audience:*

Professionals  
Religious leaders  
Chiefs  
Business people  
Community leaders

## *Introduction of Ambassador:*

Born in Almen, lived in Twente.  
Started career at age 26.  
Completed law school and entered foreign affairs.  
Has been the Dutch ambassador in Morocco and now in Accra, Ghana.

## *What is the Goal of This Meeting?*

To encourage the relationship between the Netherlands and Ghana.  
The purpose of his presence is to find a way to deepen the relationship between the two countries.

## *What is the 'Ambassadors Conference'?*

Once a year all Dutch ambassadors all over the world come back home for updates.  
Discuss the developments in the Netherlands  
Different speakers  
Meeting with prime minister  
Domestic politics  
Talk to other ministries  
Presentations on the future  
everything digitalized, the use of iPad's

The plans for the coming 5 years

- *Questions* -

**Gambrah:** Is there a policy towards the Ghanaian diaspora?

How could they, through the Dutch mission, support the development of Ghana?

**H.E. Ron Strikker:** It's per theme.

There are 4 sections: Agriculture, healthcare, private sector, water.

Mainly worked through the private sector. In practice in the private sector funds for entrepreneurships.

In practice, it's about being involved. There is no framework, but it's possible to play a role if it serves a purpose. There is capacity to help.

RVO is a channel that has a lot of information

The Ghana Embassy in the Netherlands should be more involved. Economic diplomacy will be the responsibility for the Ghanaian Embassy soon.

It all starts with a good/serious project

GMBCC in Accra, the substitution of GHANEC

They have a lot of information, they organize events, good channel.

NABC also a good organization only a bit more commercial.

The Dutch embassy doesn't provide money, they provide information.

The RVO has money.

The embassy refers you, sends you to the right people.

- *Question* -

**Unnamed Business Individual:** Ghana is removed from the Dutch aid list why?

**Ron Strikker:** The focus is more on the poorer countries. Ghana has her own trade deal with the EU. Wanted a deal with ECOAS but Nigeria didn't accept treaty. So Ghana stayed in contact with EU.

*- Question-*

**Unnamed Individual:** What policy has your embassy on migration? A lot of young Ghanaians go through Libya.

**Ron Striker:** I don't exactly know, but I strictly discourage it because it's dangerous. The Ghanaian government should create jobs. Creating industry to create jobs. (One district one factory)

If you attract Dutch investors in Ghana and you create jobs, the Dutch embassy promotes investment.

(Growing business together program)→ private entrepreneurship.

*-Question-*

**Chief:** Why is it that my younger son did not get a Dutch passport whilst I was already Dutch and my older children got theirs?

(Problem is with a certain lady called Monique. According to the chief she is not objective when it comes to issuing the passport. He also had some questions about the "erkenning"

Someone else also had a complaint about Monique)

*-Question -*

**Pastor Felix Asare:** How does the Dutch embassy define their criteria when applying for a visa?

**Ron Strikker:** I can't answer all consular matters. The regional office is separate from the embassy, but I can guarantee you that it's never so that one person decides on a visa application.

We had a good time with His Excellency Mr. Strikker and he also give a positive comment of our meeting with him. He told the audience to visit him at his office anytime they are in Accra