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# Sudan national day

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## Expanding political, economic progress

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I would like, from the outset, to express my sincere heartfelt and respectful greetings and best wishes to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial family and all of the friendly people of Japan on the occasion of the New Year.

I, equally, avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate the Right Honourable Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on his re-election and the large support he and his government obtained from the Japanese people as I wish the new government all success.

I would like also, on my own behalf, and on behalf of my colleagues in the embassy of Sudan in Tokyo, to congratulate our fellow compatriots of the Sudanese community in Japan on the auspicious occasion of the National Day of Sudan and the New Year.

This Jan. 1 marks the 59th anniversary of the independence of Sudan, which was obtained



after a long courageous nationalist struggle, inspired by the Sudanese uprising of Imam Mohamed Ahmed Elmahdi, leader of “the Mahdist Revolution” and the father of the modern Sudan nationalist movement. It is also a pleasant coincidence that Jan. 9 will be the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that put an end to the war in the three provinces of South Sudan, gave the people of South Sudan the right of self determination, which subsequently led to the secession of South Sudan on July 9, 2011. The leadership of Sudan and South Sudan have, on several occasions, reiterated their utmost determination to implement in letter and spirit the eight cooperation agreements signed on Sep. 27, 2012, addressing all bilateral concerns, including oil transportation and related economic matters, status of nationals, border demarcation, cooperation on central banking, trade and trade related issues, division of assets and liabilities, payment of post-service benefits and security arrangements. It is noteworthy that the agreements include a joint effort by both governments to approach the

international community and international financial institutions with a view of reaching a solution to the unbearable problem of Sudan’s foreign debts. A Tripartite committee (Sudan, South Sudan and the African Union) was formed as a platform to strengthen relations between the two countries and coordinate and intensify outreach efforts toward international creditors. It is now widely observed that cooperation between the two countries, especially on issues like debt relief, is a key element for achieving the shared objective of two viable states.

The now oil self-sufficient economy of the Sudan continues to benefit from the economic revival obtained as a result of the production of oil in the last few years. Efforts to diversify Sudan’s economy have succeeded in augmenting the country’s production of gold. Gold production is estimated to reach around 70 tonnes for the year 2014. Other traditional exports, including sesame, groundnuts, gum Arabic (acacia gum), sugar, hibiscus, oil seeds, fruits, vegetables, grains, pulses, livestock, leather and medical gas, continue to pros-

per. These products are shipped to many different major trade partners, including China, India, Egypt and rich countries on the Arab Peninsula.

At the political level, the Comprehensive Conference of the National Dialogue launched at the beginning of 2014 will be convened in the first quarter of this year. The conference aims at revising all aspects of political life, making constitutional reforms to pave the way for free multiparty elections and put an end to unrest in the South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur areas. The initiative was widely welcomed by all political affiliations in the country and is gaining remarkable support from both the regional and international communities.

In concluding these remarks, I would like to express, on behalf of the people and the government of the Sudan, our sincere thanks and appreciation for the valuable assistance Japan has been offering to my country in recent years. The people of Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Japan External Trade Organization deserve special acknowledgement.