

Cameroon national day

Showing compassion for our friend Japan

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Every year on May 20 the Republic of Cameroon celebrates its National Day. It is a solemn occasion when Cameroonians the world over come together to participate in celebrations of our journey as a nation.

It is always a festive period as we celebrate our progress as a culturally and linguistically diverse people, reflecting on the challenges we face as a people



and charting a course for the future. One of the most remarkable achievements of our nationhood is that Cameroonians wherever they are have fostered sincere ties of friendship within the communities wherein they reside.

At the governmental level, the establishment of mutually beneficial bilateral and cooperation relations is among the principal tenets of our foreign policy.

As a result, my country and Japan enjoy very amicable relations. The numerous ties between our two countries are continuously expanding and, therefore, it was with great consternation and sorrow that the

people of Cameroon saw the television images of the disaster that struck the Tohoku region of Japan on March 11.

The outpouring of support and solidarity has been phenomenal.

President H.E. Paul Biya, immediately sent a message of condolence to His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito while instructing that the Cameroon Embassy remain open. On his part, Minister of External Relations H.E Henri Eyebe Ayissi proceeded to sign the condolence book opened at the Japanese Embassy in Yaoundé.

A requiem mass, attended by members of government, the diplomatic corps and the gen-

eral public was organized at the Yaoundé Notre Dame Cathedral in honor of the victims of the earthquake and tsunami.

The government and people of Cameroon seize the opportunity of the National Day to once again assure the friendly government and people of Japan of their compassion following this catastrophe. It is for this reason that the Embassy of Cameroon has decided not to hold its traditional National Day celebrations this year.

We are appreciative of the efforts by the government to provide information on the crisis and are confident of their determination to clean up and to reconstruct the devastated zones.