

Nigeria Independence Day

Large strides on path of progress

MOHAMMED GANA YISA
AMBASSADOR OF NIGERIA

As we celebrate another milestone of the gains of our Independence and Sovereign Nationhood attained 57 years ago on Oct. 1, 1960, it is with great delight and high sense of responsibility that I offer this contribution for publication, having just arrived in Japan a few days back. Therefore, I have the singular honor on behalf of the government and people of Nigeria, to address the good people of Japan on this auspicious occasion. I wish to extend fraternal wishes of good health and longevity to their Majesties Emperor Aki-



hito and Empress Michiko, as well as the entire Imperial household. Let me also seize this opportunity, on behalf of President Muhammadu Buhari, to convey warm wishes to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the government and people of Japan. I also offer my warm greetings to my fellow compatriots in Japan, on this joyous independence anniversary celebration.

Recent democratic experience has given



President Muhammadu Buhari meets U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at U.N. headquarters on Sept. 20. AFP-JJII

Nigerians renewed optimism in its new phase of nation-building. Amid daunting challenges, the present administration led by our president has set the country on the path of progress, especially on three key areas of diversification of the economy, security and the fight against corruption.

The government has made gains in the agriculture area, with the introduction of the Agricultural Promotion Policy, which aims at prioritizing improvement in domestic production of agricultural products. The government has also made inroads in the containment of insurgencies in most parts of Northeast Nigeria and the fight against corruption.

Nigeria-Japan relations

I am particularly elated with the outstanding exemplary solidarity extended by the Japanese government to assist Nigeria and other African countries. The opportunities provided by the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process both to Nigeria and all of Africa, is exemplary and the TICAD VI event offered milestone achievements that saw our leaders informally agree to address the problems militating the inflow of Japanese investment into Nigeria, as well as promotion of trade and investment, health, peace and development of the continent.

At this juncture, may I state that I am a strong testament of the cordial relations of our countries and with gratitude I will deepen the relations as the principal envoy of our president. I owe my career development to the sound educational foundation received during my study in this coun-

try. On behalf of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I thank the Japanese government for investing in me. It is also my avowed determination that my return to Japan as my country's envoy raises the relations between the two countries to new heights.

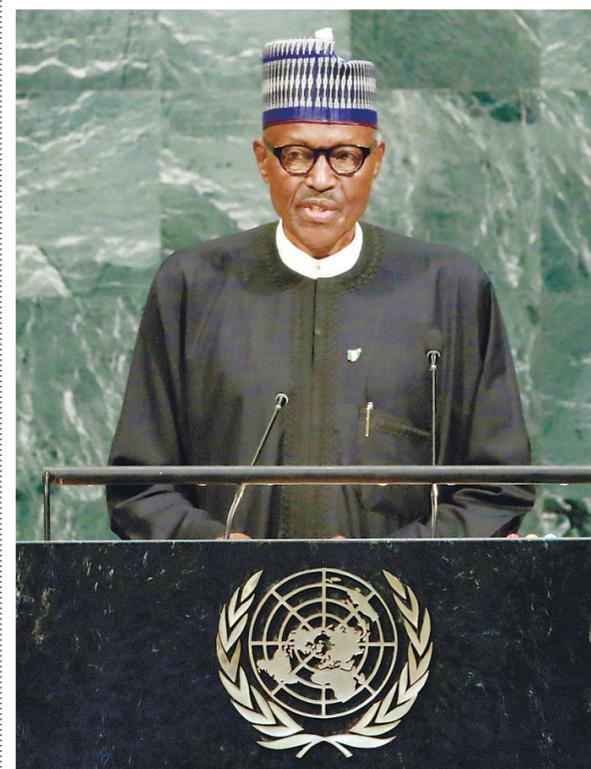
Let me take this opportunity to urge all Nigerians in Japan to proudly embrace our heritage, promoting it through exemplary lives not only for our children to emulate,

but to also display and teach tolerance, hard work, dedication and discipline. I urge my fellow countrymen to shine as beacons of virtue in your various fields of endeavor. Be mindful of the laws of our host country, respect the customs and avoid vices or attempts to break the laws.

Let me once again congratulate the government and people of Japan for providing an enabling environment for the businesses

of our countries to thrive. In addition, permit me to take this opportunity to thank the various Japanese companies and organizations that sponsored this publication. To our compatriots in Japan, I congratulate you once again on this year's anniversary, which is a milestone that you represent to extend our national interest.

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria! Long live Japan!



President Muhammadu Buhari addresses the 72nd session of the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 19. AP

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the Federal Republic of Nigeria
on the 57th Anniversary
of Their Independence

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