Togo National Day Special

Plan aims to create world-class logistics hub

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On this auspicious occasion of the celebration of the 62nd anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Togo, I would like to convey my greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor

Naruhito and Empress Masako, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, the government and the people of Japan.

Peace and security, both inside and outside our borders, constitute the backbone of Togo's economic and social development, as well as its subregional and continental integration. It is important that our country relies on this backbone to face the current security threats caused by violent extremism, and to consolidate its development.

That is why His Excellency President Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe, supreme commander of the army, has made the choice to reorganize the Togolese armed forces by dividing the country into two regions, each with its own armed forces, national gendarmerie and police. This innovative leadership mechanism aims to ensure better protection of the population throughout our territory.

The Military Programming Law 2021-2025 was passed to enhance this mechanism. It aims to adapt the Togolese armed forces to new security contingencies in the context of emerging threat types, as well as to provide better capabilities for securing institutions, territory and people.

At the international level, the highest Togolese authorities are firmly committed to the United Nations peacekeeping operations, a necessary tool for development.

The Togolese commitment to peacekeeping operations has two objectives: to ensure peace and security wherever those ideals are threatened and to drill Togolese troops within the blue berets to enable them to develop greater managerial skills more adapted to the new context of international security issues and the pledge of peace and development.

In the search for solutions to security



H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe, president of the Republic of Togo

concerns, Togo joined the Accra Initiative in September 2017 in response to the growing insecurity linked to violent extremism. It aims to prevent the spread of extremism from the Sahel and to combat transnational organized crime in border areas.

In terms of cybersecurity, Togo held an international summit on March 23 and 24.

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This summit addressed the increasingly frequent cyberattacks that have reduced gross domestic product by more than 10%, at a time when the continent is experiencing lightning speed in terms of connectivity. At the end of the summit, the Lome dec-

laration on cybersecurity was adopted. Participants have also undertaken to sign and ratify the African Union Convention on Cybersecurity and Personal Data Protection, also known as the Malabo convention, by establishing a legal framework and regulations specific to cybersecurity and to the fight against cybercrime.

It is within this context that the Togolese government, under the leadership of the president, continues to implement his National Development Plan (NDP 2018-2022) through the 2020-2025 government road map, which rests on three pillars.

The first of these is aimed at strengthening social inclusion and harmony and consolidating peace.

The second aims to revitalize job creation based on the driving forces of the economy.

The third pillar looks to modernize the country and reinforce its structures.

To achieve this, Togo established the National Agency for the Promotion of Investments and the Free Zone, which aims to ensure safe investments in a favorable economic environment. One of the objectives of Togo's NDP is to set up a logistics hub of excellence and a world-class business center in the sub-region. To that end, Togolese authorities have decided to establish the Adetikope Industrial Platform (PIA), which reflects a public-private partnership.

Inaugurated in June 2021 and covering an area of 400 hectares, the PIA includes an industrial zone focused on creating a flourishing value chain for storage, transformation, manufacturing and exportation.

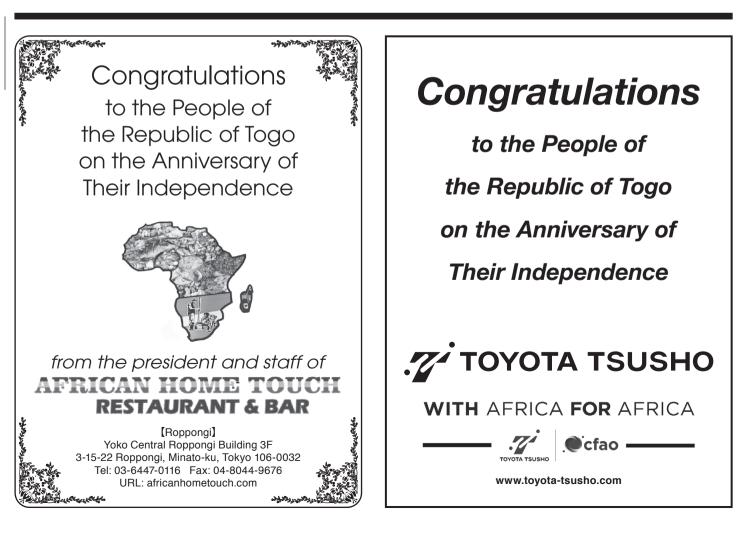
The PIA aims to eventually become a special economic zone for both local and for-



H.E. Victoire Tomegah-Dogbe, prime minister of the Republic of Togo

eign investors. It will offer an advantageous tax regime, modern infrastructure as well as integrated multimodal logistic services.

In a few months, the eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development will be held in Tunisia. I'm pleased to see that the objectives of TICAD 8 and the Togolese government road map converge in the areas of socioeconomic transformation by promoting private investment, peace and stability, and I do hope that TICAD 8 will be the leitmotif for NDP project financing.





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H.E. Robert Dussey, minister for foreign affairs, regional integration and Togolese abroad

In this regard, I wish to assure the Japanese government of the commitment of my country to participating in the success of TICAD 8. I would also like to take this opportunity to urge Japanese economic operators to invest in Togo, which remains a peaceful country with plenty of potential.

I would like to conclude my remarks by offering congratulations on the friendship and brotherhood ties that exist between Togo and Japan and hail the wisdom and the commitment of the highest authorities of our two countries to consolidate these ties.