Significant progress underway in health care

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Aug. 1 marks the 64th anniversary of Benin's independence. On this auspicious occasion, I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Beninese diaspora in Japan and all the countries under the Embassy of Benin in Japan's jurisdiction. Your contributions and support have been instrumental in our journey. I also wish to acknowledge the Japanese authorities at all levels for their invaluable contributions to the cooperation between our countries.

As we reflect on the past 64 years since Benin acceded to international sovereignty, we see a journey of overcoming challenges and improving the social well-being of our population. This journey fills us with hope and optimism for the future as we continue to increase our score on the U.N. Human Development Index, paving the way to a brighter future.

The Government Action Program, inspired by the National Development Program, aims to accelerate Benin's socio-economic development in a dynamic of peace, security, good governance, prosperity and health care accessible to vulnerable populations.

Thus, in recent years, the government of President Patrice Talon has reached cruising speed in building the nation's health infrastructure through the construction of a multidisciplinary hospital of international standing in the municipality of Abomey-Calavi to compensate for medical evacuations in Europe, which are very costly for the state, and to guarantee social well-being through the achievement of United Nations sustainable development goal No. 3.

Talon, aware of the shortcomings of Benin's health system, has built this hospital with state-of-the-art medical equipment capable of handling the most complex pathologies.

The Calavi International Hospital Center in Abomey-Calavi is the largest hospital in Benin and one of the largest in the sub-region. With a capacity of 436 beds, this facility covers 16 hectares, has high-quality equipment and offers several services, including a radiotherapy and a nuclear medicine center.

The hospital has 18 specialties and eight units covering emergency and resuscitation; cardio-metabolism; oncology; digestive and medical surgery; locomotor and neurosurgery; cardiovascular and thoracic medicine; nephrology and urology; and head and neck trauma.

The Calavi International Hospital Center will receive its first patient this year, and I am thrilled to express my satisfaction with the interest that the Beninese diaspora has shown in response to the call for applications launched on May 27 to recruit hospital staff.

I would also like to seize this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the Japanese companies investing in the construction of health infrastructure in Benin. Your contributions are invaluable, and we invite you to continue to express your interest in our country. Benin is a country of peace that is stable and secure as well as hospitable and very welcoming whose authorities remain open to investment in the framework of a win-win partnership.

Long live Benin and long live the cooperation between Benin and Japan!

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