

Togo National Day Special

Governmental shifts expected to bolster relations

D. E. KEKELI MOUVY
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF TOGO



On the occasion of the 66th anniversary of the Independence of the Togolese Republic, it is with a profound sense of pride that I address the readers of The Japan Times and our partners in Japan.

This year marks a pivotal milestone for our nation, characterized by renewed institutional maturity, a strong diplomatic commitment to the emergence of Africa and an economic dynamism that brings shared opportunities.

Togo has crossed a historic threshold with the peaceful and successful transition to the Fifth Republic. This new constitutional framework establishes a modern parliamentary system, guaranteeing more agile and representative governance.

Within this innovative architecture, H.E.

Jean-Lucien Savi de Tove assumes the high office of president of the republic, head of state. As a moral figure and guarantor of national unity, he embodies the continuity of the state. Executive authority and the conduct of the nation's policy are, for their part, ensured with pragmatism and leadership by H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe, president of the Council of Ministers. This institutional complementarity significantly strengthens the solidity of the Togolese state, offering legal security and predictability to our international partners.

On the international stage, Togo reaffirms its unwavering commitment to a free and sovereign Africa. Our country proudly hosted the ninth Pan-African Congress in Lome, a major intellectual event aimed at rethinking the continent's place in global governance. This avant-garde spirit was illustrated by the "Correct the Map" initiative championed by Togo at the African Union. This bold endeavor, aimed at correcting the surface area of Africa on world maps, culminated in an AU decision recommending the adoption of the Equal

Earth map. This is a tremendous victory for the restoration of African dignity.

Faithful to its tradition of peace, Togo actively continues its role as a mediator, particularly in Africa's Great Lakes region. The "coherence framework" initiated by our diplomacy brings genuine added value: It guarantees a coordinated approach to peace initiatives, avoiding the dispersion of efforts and maximizing their direct impact on regional stability.

On the economic front, Togo maintains a resolutely ambitious course with a projected growth rate of 6.5% for 2026. The engine of this vitality is the strategic coupling of Lome port — the only deep-water port in West Africa — and the Adetikope Industrial Platform (PIA). This logistical synergy propels the local processing of our resources. I warmly invite Japanese economic operators, renowned for their technological excellence, to invest in the PIA, a secure and highly competitive hub for conquering the African market.

Our bilateral relations are experiencing an exceptional upswing. Our participation

in the ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Yokohama, marked by fruitful meetings at the highest level with then-Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and Japanese business leaders, has opened up new prospects for cooperation.

Our active presence at the Osaka Expo also highlighted Togolese assets. We congratulate the Japanese government on the organization of these global events and wish in advance for the resounding success of International Horticultural Expo 2027 in Yokohama.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to their majesties the emperor and empress of Japan for their benevolent guidance. My sincere thanks also go to the Japanese government for the facilities granted to our diplomatic mission, and to the Japanese people for their legendary hospitality and friendship.

I conclude by wishing a very happy Independence Day to the Togolese diaspora living in Japan and to all friends of Togo.

May Togo-Japan cooperation continue to flourish and bear abundant fruit!



President of the
Council of Ministers
**Faure Essozimna
Gnassingbe**
EMBASSY OF TOGO



Congratulations
to the People of the Republic of Togo
on the Anniversary of
their Independence



NS Semicon Co. Ltd.
<http://www.nssemicon.com/>
info@nssemicon.com

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