

Cameroon national day

Infrastructural framework to serve as development bedrock

Pierre Ndzengue
AMBASSADOR OF CAMEROON

Today, the Cameroon Embassy marks the 40th anniversary celebration of the creation of a unitary Cameroon nation. This is indeed a memorable day for the people and government of the Republic of Cameroon. On May 20, 1972, we came together as one people



and one nation with a shared destiny and common purpose, driven by the same aspirations for progress, peace and economic development. The celebration of this day in Tokyo, though belated, still carries the same significance for us here as it does for all Cameroonians, wherever they may be.

The celebration this year comes on the heels of some major political events in the life of the country: the 50th anniversary of the independence of Cameroon in 2010 and the re-election

of President Paul Biya following the presidential elections that took place in October 2011. It is worth mentioning here that for the first time in our political history, the Cameroonian community living abroad was eligible to vote. This year will also witness the celebration of another significant political milestone in the evolution of Cameroon: the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Cameroon.

On the occasion of the celebration of this day, I would like, on behalf of the people and govern-

ment of Cameroon, and the staff of the Cameroon Embassy in Tokyo to extend our warm and most respectful greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and wishes of good health, and to the friendly people of Japan our best wishes.

It is over one year since Japan suffered the triple disaster of the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami and the ensuing Fukushima nuclear accident. Though the social and economic consequences of these disasters are still evident, it is all the same

heartening to notice the determination and commitment of both the government and people of Japan in the reconstruction of the affected areas, and the survivors are slowly but certainly putting their lives back together. It is also reassuring to note that the situation at the Fukushima nuclear plant is stabilizing.

The year 2012 is a watershed year in our efforts to bring about the economic and social development of Cameroon. The government of President Biya, in its Policy of Great Achievements, is

undertaking the establishment of an infrastructural framework and environment that will serve as the bedrock for future development activity and will see the country emerge as a middle-income economy.

In this regard, Cameroon has initiated major projects in three main areas — infrastructure development, increasing energy output and sources, and industrialization. Since 2010 the government has embarked on major energy projects, which include Lom Pangar, Memve'ele, Mekin hydroelectric projects as well as the Kribi natural gas power plant. There are studies underway to harness the country's many untapped energy resources.

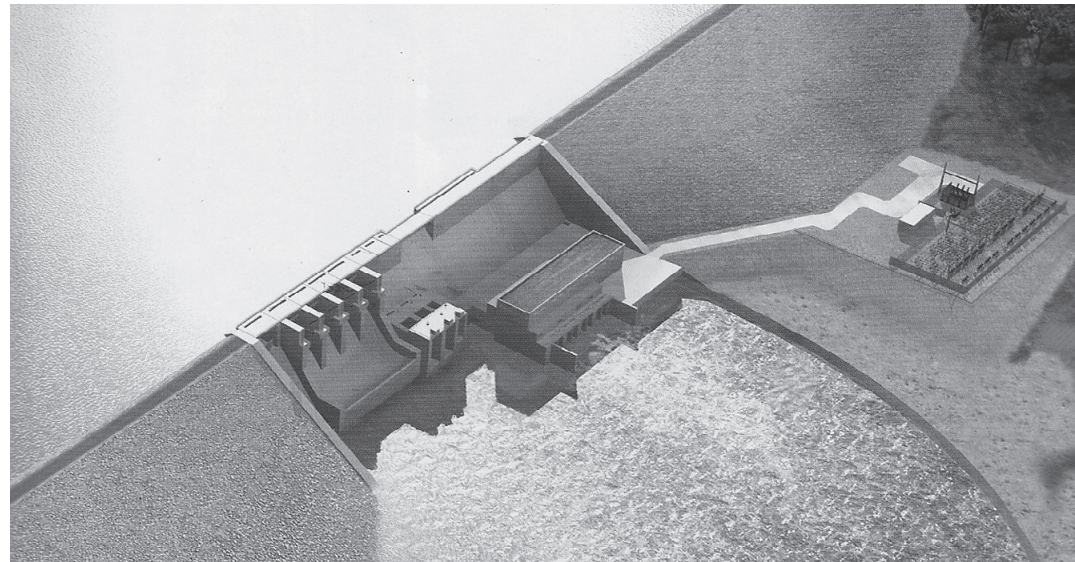
In the area of infrastructure development across the country, a project worthy of note is the Kribi deep seaport complex. On completion this ambitious project will become an industrial, maritime and commercial hub.

With regard to its industrialization drive, the government is putting more emphasis on the transformation of the natural resources with which it is blessed. Cameroon has huge deposits of iron ore, nickel, natural gas and bauxite. Other mineral deposits existing in Cameroon are titanium, uranium, gold and diamonds.

The economic development of Cameroon is not only limited to the three areas of activity cited above. Cameroon's strategic

location on the Gulf of Guinea and the numerous opportunities for investment that it provides should make it attractive for investors looking for a good return on their money. I would there-

fore, as I have done in the past, encourage the Japanese private sector to come and join us in the economic transformation of our country. It will be a win-win situation for both parties.



Energy: The Lom Pangar Hydropower Project aims to improve the supply of electricity across Cameroon with a dam that regulates seasonal flows of the Sanaga River. EMBASSY OF CAMEROON



Original: The chief's compound in Bandjoun is among the Bamileke people's impressive buildings. EMBASSY OF CAMEROON

Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Cameroon on Their National Day



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