

Senegal independence day

Partnership built on friendship and mutual respect

Bouna Sékou Diouf,
AMBASSADOR OF SENEGAL

In the name of the government and people of Senegal, and on my own behalf, I renew my respectful wishes of good health and longevity to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko as well as to the entire Imperial family.



Less than a month ago, Japan marked the third anniversary of the March 2011 triple tragedy. The commemoration was characterized by the proper solemnity and the legendary humility for which the gallant people of Japan are known.

Yet, this great nation has reason to be proud of the resilience and fortitude it has again demonstrated in efficiently rebuilding the devastated parts of its territory and in so doing bringing to bear an efficient approach to post natural disaster management.

As my country celebrates on April 4, the 54th anniversary of its Independence, our government and people continue to stand with the people of Japan in their unwavering efforts to achieve in a timely manner, what remains to be done for the lives of the survivors of the March 11, 2011, scourge to return to full normalcy.

Japan's cooperation with Senegal continues to be dynamic, multifaceted and result-oriented. It is highly qualitative bilaterally and also

in the Context of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD).

Our respective leaders remain committed to enhancing this partnership in all critical development sectors, including, but not limited to agriculture, agribusiness, fishing, education and vocational training, energy, water and sanitation, infrastructure, mining and tourism.

Strategic partnerships

The promising 2013 TICAD V Summit pledges are currently positively being carried out, giving a realistic hope that, as in previous situations, Japan's commitments will be fully and timely honored.

Such is the conviction of H.E. President Macky Sall of the Republic of Senegal, who is also the current chairperson of the Steering Committee of Heads of State and Government of the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

That such a conviction is widely shared by the other 14 heads of state of the member countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was reinforced during the productive ECOWAS meeting in January 2014 in Abidjan with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Since its Independence in 1960, my country has been characterized by a remarkable political stability, democratic government and rule of law.

Building on the prior achievements, President Sall has, since his election on March 25, 2012, nurtured a



H.E. President Macky Sall of the Republic of Senegal

firm resolve to promptly overcome the critical challenges facing our population and to achieve by 2018 inclusive, rights-based and sustainable human development epitomized by major socio-economic transformations.

For this to come about, our government has recently consolidated its National Strategies for Absolute Poverty Reduction and the timely achievement locally, of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) into a new overarching document titled "Plan for an Emerging Senegal 2014 - 2018" or PSE, a move expected to be cost effective to several processes that have not often proven optimally productive in several parts of the developing world.

The PSE, the core targets and projected impacts of which

were recently fully endorsed with very substantial pledges by the financial and technical partners of Senegal to fund it, hinges on several expected outcomes such as further consolidating democratic governance and already strong national institutions with particular focus on decentralization and devolution as well as an improved match between curricula and the demands of the labor market.

The PSE represents a consensual document to coordinate public action.

The peace, political stability and social cohesion Senegal is respected for are expected to fuel the envisioned qualitative changes that will encompass all key socio-economic sectors.

Three main pillars will be used to achieve the PSE's laudable goals: structural transfor-

mation of the economy, including a sustained minimum 7 percent GDP increase; capitalization on our high quality human resources; and social justice, accountability and the continued reduction of inequalities, equity, peace and human security.

The new paradigm in Africa, characterized by a strong GDP, more democratic governance, climate change and overall geopolitical dynamics, calls for an innovative approach to development.

Equally, the need to accelerate the rate of achievement of the MDGs before the agreed cut-off date and beyond, in the context of the post-2015 international development agenda will constitute benchmarks to implement our PSE.

Funding of this strategic investment plan requires the mobilization of some \$25 billion in the form of both domestic resources and partner contributions.

The government of Senegal has already earmarked more than half of this amount from public resources.

Our partners, including the private sector, were invited to fund the gap representing some 43 percent of the target figure.

To this end, an important Consultative Group Meeting on our country was very successfully organized on Feb. 24 and 25 in Paris, under the chairmanship of President Sall. The meeting, which brought together Senegal, its development partners and representatives of the private sector, turned out to be exceptionally



(Above) The Dakar-Diamniado Highway Construction Project in Senegal is intended to contribute to the improvement of the living standards of the people. (Right) Located in a sheltered bay about 15 km to the east of the capital Dakar, Bargny is the site of a proposed deep water port for exporting minerals such as iron ore.

EMBASSY OF SENEGAL



successful as its target was not only reached, but doubled.

The government and the private sector of Japan were well-represented at the Paris meeting.

To us, this means above all that our country continues to enjoy the trust and confidence of its partners as a secure and dependable state.

I seize this opportunity to further encourage the Japanese private sector to take advantage of a most favorable business environment in Senegal and invest massively in high potential sectors such as agriculture, fishing, aquaculture, mining and tourism, which offer very competitive rates of return.

Congratulations

Warmest congratulations to the people of the Republic of Senegal on their 54th Independence Day Anniversary

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