

Togo National Day

Nation sees steady socioeconomic progress

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CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF TOGO



It is a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to address the Japanese people on the occasion of the 57th Anniversary of the Independence of my country, Togo.

Since April 27, 1960,

Togo has had its own destiny with different historical realities, ranging from a glorious period to a long period of crisis, the effects of which have been declining since 2005.

Today, with the pragmatic vision of Togolese President H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe, Togo has since embarked on an irreversible march toward development.

To boost the social and economic development of Togo and meet the basic needs of the people, the government in January 2016 adopted the Community Development Emergency Project (PUDC).

The PUDC, spanning 2016 to 2018, is a three-year project developed on the basis of

the social mandate of the president.

The PUDC is aimed at those poor living in zones insufficiently covered by state assistance. Its goal is to significantly hasten their access to infrastructure, equipment and basic socioeconomic services to meet their primary needs and have a concrete impact on their living conditions.

The government of Japan and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) support the implementation of the PUDC.

Of the estimated total amount of about \$258 million over three years, of which \$30 million was earmarked for 2016 alone, the PUDC provides assistance to the rural and vulnerable people — nearly 62 percent of Togo's population — of the country.

The PUDC was built on a participatory approach aimed ultimately at real ownership of the benefits. The identification of priorities and the establishment of their needs were carried out via consultation involving beneficiary communities.

Taking into account the main lines of the Togo's Accelerated Growth and Employment Strategy (SCAPE) 2013-2017, the PUDC's ambitious and feasible results are grouped into four components. These are the develop-

ment of basic socioeconomic infrastructures; strengthening the institutional capacities of national and local players; development of rural entrepreneurship; and the development of an infrastructure and equipment geo-tracking system.

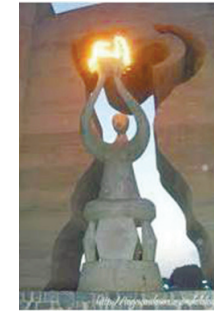
The PUDC focuses on rural business, capacity building, energy, education, health, rural roads, drinking water, inclusive financing and basic socioeconomic infrastructure.

The interconnection of rural roads with the road network will both facilitate the mobility of populations and promote new economic opportunities. It will also allow the transport of products to storage or sales sites, improve accessibility of basic social services and people's incomes to boost local economies.

Togo will adopt in the beginning of 2018 a new National Development Plan (PND) in line with the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to replace SCAPE.

The objective of the PND is to reach emergence in 2030, taking into account those areas of the PUDC that target the rural population essentially.

It will cover five main issues of welfare and population growth; productivity and competitiveness of growth sectors; infra-



Above left: President of Togo H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe. Above: The independence monument, standing in the capital of Lome, is a symbol of struggle and bloodshed for freedom. EMBASSY OF TOGO

structure to support growth; sustainable development of the territory, environment and living environment; and governance and peace building. It will also take into account principles such as national leadership, accountability, results-based management, sustainability and gender equity.

The 57th anniversary of the independence of Togo is once again an opportunity to put more emphasis on national reconciliation, development and progress for a fair, harmonious and democratic society to achieve the SDGs by 2030. It is also a time for strengthening the bilateral and multilateral cooperation with Japan and advance the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process without forgetting the development of the blue and the green economies, the new drivers of inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Togo
on the 57th Anniversary
of Their Independence



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