

Mauritania National Day Special

Political stability vital to sustainable development

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OF MAURITANIA



Let me welcome you all to this special article about my country Mauritania, which celebrates today, Nov. 28, its 59th National Independence Day. I thank the editors of The Japan Times

for giving me this wonderful opportunity to address its readers.

On this 59th anniversary of our national independence day, I would like to express on behalf of the government and people of Mauritania, myself and my colleagues in our embassy in Japan, our respectful and profound greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, members of the imperial family, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the government and friendly people of Japan.

This year, commemoration is very special for all Mauritians as it comes right after historic presidential elections, marked by smooth and fair electoral competition between six different candidates representing the mainstream of the political spectrum.

H.E. Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani, who gained the trust of the majority of Mauritians, was elected president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. For the first time in our history, the political power was handed over peacefully and democratically from one elected leader to another, in a transparent, pluralistic and democratic

presidential election. It was a vibrant message to future generations that Mauritania is strongly attached to the tenets of democracy.

In his address at the inauguration ceremony, the president expressed his determination to implement his very ambitious electoral program and reiterated his unflinching commitment to heavily invest in education and the public health care system to improve the well-being of the people. Special focus will be given to eradicating poverty, fighting corruption and inequalities, rationalizing public spending and enhancing social cohesion by accompanying the most vulnerable fringe of the society and the empowerment of women and youth.

Furthermore, the president expressed his commitment to consolidate democracy, promote political dialogue and strengthen the institutional bodies, as necessary pillars to build a strong nation, in which no one is left behind. In this respect, wide-ranging consultations were launched with different political advocates, inviting them to participate constructively in the development of the country.

As for the cooperation between Japan and Mauritania, the two countries enjoy long-standing friendship and are strongly committed to develop and enhance bilateral cooperation to include multiple economic sectors. The government of Japan contributes generously to the development of Mauritania through its official aid, as well as its positive impact in vital sectors such as infrastructure, food and security, fisheries, health and education. Today, Mauritania offers many investment opportunities for the Japanese private sector not only in the fisheries and iron ore sectors,



**President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
H.E. Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani**

but also in natural gas and agriculture. The government created the Nouadhibou Free Zone in 2013, with advantageous legal framework and multiple incentives mainly to attract more investors.

The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7), held in Yokohama in August, was an opportunity for H.E. Ismail Ould Bedda Ould Cheikh Sidiya, prime minister and head of delegation, to meet with Abe and discuss the best ways to further develop and enhance the bilateral cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Before I conclude this short article, I would like to emphasize that my country Mauritania is considered a favorite destination for many tourists, especially from European countries, because of its unique landscapes and ancient cities that are among the World Heritage sites, as well as thousands of rare historic manuscripts.



The Chinguetti Mosque, an ancient religious center developed by the founders of the city of Chinguetti in the Adrar region, is considered a national symbol.

CHIZUKO KATO / EMBASSY OF MAURITANIA

I invite all Japanese to visit Mauritania and enjoy its beautiful scenery, hospitality and the generosity of its people.

To conclude, I would like to express, on behalf of the people and government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, our sincere thanks and appreciation for all the support Mauritania has been receiving from the friendly people and government of the Land of the Rising Sun.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

Congratulations
to the People of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
on the Anniversary of Their Independence



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