

# Gabon National Day Special

## Economic model to accelerate growth, reduce poverty

**JOSEPH GIRAUD EFFANGONE-OBAGHE**  
AMBASSADOR OF GABON



On Aug. 17, Gabon commemorates the 60th Anniversary of its accession to international sovereignty. This period coincides unfortunately with the time when the entire world

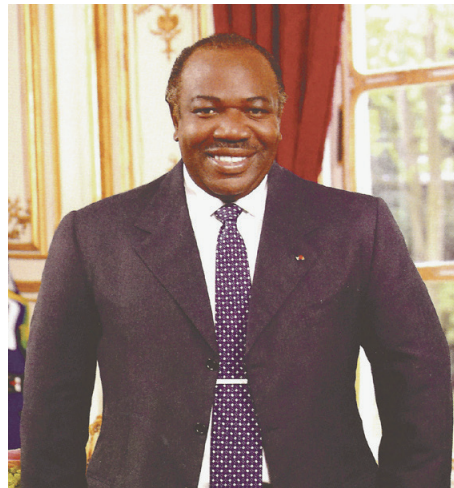
is mobilized to combat the coronavirus pandemic. Under the leadership of President of the Republic His Excellency Ali Bongo Ondimba, Gabon's message is uniform everywhere: The emergency is to reinvent ourselves for the post-coronavirus order, because the virus' socioeconomic impact is considerable, by changing the means of development.

Gabon will rethink its economic model to break its sensitivity to all kinds of crises and radically transform its actual model. The following essential points will be at the heart of this paradigm shift.

Firstly, ensure the supply of basic infrastructure (water, health and education) and structural ones (transportation and energy) throughout the territory in order to guarantee the people's security. It is a necessary condition for the promotion of the private sector and an engine of diversified growth.

Secondly, build a model of endogenous development to ensure the adequacy of our economic development plan that involves natural endowments and to revive the major challenge of structural transformation planning.

The third point addresses the necessity to train suitable specialized workers. With the challenges of productivity in the agriculture and food industry, self-entrepreneurship and the sciences will be focused on in training offerings with a view on establishing a development



**President of Gabon Ali Bongo Ondimba**

model around a strong, economically viable middle class. A massive investment in health infrastructure becomes urgent to exit from the structural fragility of the current system and to guarantee quality skilled individuals.

Fourthly, we need to accelerate Gabon's industrialization to break the vicious cycle of unbridled dependence on raw and primary materials.

The new economic model shall introduce possibilities to develop a productive base and to create wealth in capitalizing on our natural resources and human capital.

Finally, we must speed up the pace of digital transition. Going digital has the advantage of increasing efficiency gains. The government will continue to invest heavily in the digitalization of its economy — a feature of good governance.

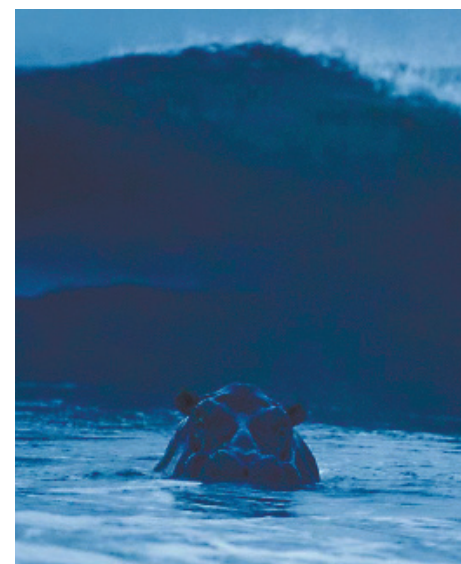
This new concept of an economic model aligns with the Gabon Emergent 2025 Vision that is oriented toward the acceleration of economic growth, the diversification of its sources, as well as the reduction of poverty and social inequalities.

In this newly projected economic

environment, we must consider how to adapt the partnership between Japan and Gabon by taking into account the two states' well-understood interests in the context where the economic diversification is underway.

We should first attract active participation into this economic structural transformation of the Japanese private sector with their renowned discipline and quality, admirably deployed worldwide, using an overall approach of their role in our society. Japanese companies have undeniable assets to take their place in the Gabonese government's key investment programs.

More specifically, I take this opportunity to express on behalf of my government, its openness to Japanese investments on its soil as a part of the promotion of projects designed on the basis of investment opportunities in relation to the national economic development plan in selected priority sectors and those with high added value.



**Surfing hippos can be found at Loango National Park.**

EMBASSY OF GABON

These include timber, energy, mining, infrastructure, digital, agriculture, aquaculture and tourism; they will contribute to the diversification of the productive base.

It is important to note that Gabon, as are other Central African countries, is facing three simultaneous crises.

These are health, due to the coronavirus; security, due to the known piracy in the Congo Basin; and the economy, as a result of the decline in income from raw materials.

In such an exceptional situation, any country's involvement in the various initiatives pursued through technical and financial partnerships would be welcome. Because the crisis is affecting every country, the middle-income ones are also to be included, rather than be excluded, to organize the economic recovery.

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



**Libreville is well known for its great urban development investment opportunities.**

EMBASSY OF GABON

**COMILOG**  
The Manganese Source®

**Congratulations**  
**to the People of the Gabonese Republic**  
**on the Occasion of the 60th Anniversary of**  
**Their Independence**

  
**eramet**

**ERAMET INTERNATIONAL TOKYO BRANCH**  
JIMBOCHO NK BLDG. 9F, 2-7, KANDA JIMBOCHO,  
CHIYODA-KU, TOKYO 101-0051, JAPAN

TEL: (81-3) 3265-3931