

Ambassador's Madjoulba transcript text in English

Excellency Mr. President,

At the joint initiative of Your Excellency and the President of the Togolese Republic, His Excellency Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, the Republic of Cyprus and the Togolese Republic established friendly and cooperative relations by signing the Protocol on 24 September 2015 in New York by their respective Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

Today, You are kindly given a higher level to these relations by deciding to formalize them through the honor You give me to present the Letters by which Your counterpart, His Excellency Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, accredits me to Your Excellency.

Mister President,

I would like, first of all, to convey to You the friendly and fraternal greeting and congratulations and admiration of the Togolese people and its President, His Excellency Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, for the elections that your country has just organized last month. The majority of the Cypriots have renewed their confidence in taking You back to the head of this beautiful and great country, the Republic of Cyprus.

Excellency Mr. President,

Like Yours, my country Togo acceded to its international sovereignty in 1960 and belongs to sub-regional groups like the Council of the Entente, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), the Economic Community of the West Africa States (ECOWAS), of which my President, His Excellency Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé ensures, since 4 June 2017, the rotating presidency; and to the regional group which is the African Union (AU).

Each of our two states is made up of different ethnic and religious groups that live in perfect symbiosis, and whose prosperity remains the major concern of their leaders.

With a seafront to the south of nearly fifty kilometers, with the deepest port of the Gulf of Guinea and ultra modern airport infrastructure, our capital Lomé makes of Togo a hub on West Africa which's human capital of over three hundred million people is a real consumer and investment market.

Mister President,

Since October 2016, at the end of the "Extraordinary Summit of the African Union on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa" that it hosted, Togo has resolutely embarked on a new economic dynamic: the Blue Economy, from the charter signed at the end of this Summit, called the "Lomé Charter" as a spearhead in the development and protection of the African blue economy.

In this context, it seems to me timely, cooperation between the Togolese Republic and the Republic of Cyprus, an island country whose economy including trade and tourism does not escape the maritime area.

Excellency Mr. President,

In the area of governance, Togo, in its ongoing quest for the rooting of democracy and aware that the reference democracies are those that emanate from the grassroots, will organize elections this year not only for the renewal of Parliament but also to equip the new municipalities, resulting from the law establishing 116 communes in Togo, leading bodies thus devolving local governance in my country.

Excellency Mr. President,

My country, Togo, highly appreciates your efforts in economic development for the benefit of the Cypriot people. Your determination to exploit the gas reserves in your Exclusive Economic Zone is part of these dynamics.

This is why Togo supports the Government of Cyprus which has the necessary notoriety and legitimacy to explore the wealth for the citizens of Cyprus.

Mister President,

Togo also welcomes the convergence of views between the Republic of Cyprus and the Togolese Republic on international issues of mutual interest.

Togo therefore supports a just and lasting settlement of the Cyprus Question, on the basis of relevant United Nations Resolutions.

Mister President,

The honor You give me today and indirectly to my country, to mark Your availability to receive the documents which seal the relations of friendship and cooperation

which so happily unite our two countries, gives me the opportunity to transmit to You, on behalf of the President of the Republic, His Excellency Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, wishes of the new year 2018 of the people and the Togolese Government to the Cypriot people and their government with the firm conviction to see these relations that You have just raised on the fonts baptisms by this ceremony, to strengthen and consolidate more for the mutual benefit of our two countries.

Long live the friendship and cooperation between the Republic of Cyprus and the Togolese Republic, long live the friendship between their Heads of State and between their peoples.

Thank You.