

12th June 2020

Excellency,

I have the honour to present my compliments to Your Excellency and, on behalf of the Government of Japan, I further have the honour to express my sincerest congratulations on Nigeria's Democracy day, being celebrated today, 12th June, to commemorate the restoration of Nigeria's democracy which started 27 years ago. The Government of Japan highly appreciates that Nigeria has been promoting the steady democratization of the country, and believes that Nigeria will continue to take a leading place in Africa as a role model for other African countries.

I would like to express my highest respect for Your Excellency's strong leadership in Nigeria's efforts to counter COVID-19 under difficult circumstances caused by the current pandemic.

I assume that it was a tough decision to start the second phase of the gradual easing of the lockdown at this trying time when Your Excellency has difficult choices to make, every day, as leader of this great nation.

Allow me to once again extend my appreciation to Your Excellency for your presence at TICAD7 in Yokohama last year. Your Excellency would recall that during the bilateral summit meeting, Japanese Prime Minister Abe Shinzo expressed his intention to provide support for the improvement of countermeasures for infectious diseases. As a token of that commitment, I signed the Exchange of Notes for The Project for Strengthening the Capacity of Network Laboratories of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) in March. Regarding the support for the Centre for Strategic Research and Studies of the National War College, the Government of Japan has completed the remittance and we are now waiting for the time when the lectures can hold. The Japan-Nigeria Business Facilitation Council was established last November. I will make continuous efforts to ensure and follow-up the implementation of the commitments that were made between Your Excellency and Prime Minister ABE Shinzo.

This year is the 60th anniversary of Nigeria's independence. At the same time it marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Nigeria as well as the 60th anniversary of the opening of the Japanese Embassy in Nigeria. The year 2020 is a significant year to both Japan and Nigeria.

Though at the moment Japan is also in a tough situation, I believe that both Japan and Nigeria will overcome this challenge and come out more resilient. I look forward to working closely with your government and to promoting our relationship for a brighter future.

I am confident that under Your Excellency's adept leadership, Nigeria will achieve further growth and continue to make significant contributions to the development and prosperity of the African continent.

Your Excellency, while I wish you success in the tasks ahead, please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

KIKUTA Yutaka
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary of Japan
to the Federal Republic of Nigeria

His Excellency Muhammadu BUHARI GCFR
President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
State House
Abuja, Nigeria