

**MESSAGE BY H.E. RAYMOND UDOFFE BROWN, AMBASSADOR OF THE  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA TO GABON ON THE OCCASION OF  
NIGERIA'S 62<sup>ND</sup> INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY, SATURDAY, 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER,  
2022**

It is with great pleasure and gratitude to God that I address you all on behalf of His Excellency, Muhammadu BUHARI, GCFR, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as Nigeria celebrates her 62<sup>nd</sup> Independence Anniversary.

2. Today commemorates the root when Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western regions (Northern and Southern Protectorates) came together to celebrate freedom after the British handed over the reign of power to Africa most populous nation, a country blessed with vast human and natural resources, on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1960. Despite the challenges we have faced as a nation, having gone through thick and thin, Nigerians still maintain the spirit of 1<sup>st</sup> October and the positive outlook and determination to make Nigeria a peaceful and prosperous nation that reflects our collective dream of a united and indivisible nation.

3. Nigeria and Gabon share same independence year, {1960}, and now members of the Commonwealth of Nations among other similarities which have metamorphosed to deepen the long existing cordial diplomatic relations between both countries for the past 60 years. My mandate as Ambassador to Gabon among others is to continue to promote the image of Nigeria, trade relations as well as preservation of citizens diplomacy which Nigeria upholds all over the world.

4. Gabon is currently a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for 2022-2023 and a new member of the Commonwealth of nations (June 25, 2022) which the President Ali Bongo Ondimba tagged "the beginning of a new and glorious chapter of its history". This indicates Gabon's intention to attract international investors in ever more diversified sectors; as English is the most widely spoken language in the world and the

language of business. Also, to improve its security, trade relations, and promoting a mutually supportive community to achieve democracy, development and peace.

5. Furthermore, it is imperative to note that, Nigeria is currently working on improving closer ties with Gabon on Maritime Security areas of Piracy, fight against human trafficking, drugs and proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons within the Gulf of Guinea; especially after a study team from the National Defence College, Abuja undertook a study tour to the Republic of Gabon in June 2021 and the recent visit of Nigeria Naval Ship(NNS) KADA to Port-Gentil in April 2022.

6. Fellow Nigerians, the past months have been very challenging in the history of Nigeria due to the Post COVID-19 Pandemic adjustment, Global Climate Change, Insecurity, Terrorism, Violent Extremism and Food Insecurity, though not peculiar to only Nigeria. These issues were equally highlighted during President Muhammadu Buhari's speech at the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2022.

7. I doubt if we have seen a period of more heightened challenges than what we have witnessed in recent times, while efforts are been put in place to fight this raging menace, tests to stabilize our economy and restore peace. It is by our attitude, togetherness and by the special grace of God, we have survived as a nation and indeed, continue to provide exemplary leadership roles which Nigeria is known for over the years at regional and international arena.

8. There is no gainsaying that Nigeria is the preferred destination for investment in Africa and it is significant that we continue to grow our GDP through boosting the non-oil sector, I therefore appeal to Nigerians as our economy continues to open up after the COVID-19 related lockdown; which requires us to explore all available options; it is our duty as citizens to

encourage trade and promote our nation's interest. No doubt, Nigeria is blessed with abundant human and natural resources, our approach to food security could be achieved within the shortest possible time by our joint efforts through the growth in the agricultural sector. This will definitely result in Nigerian-based production companies exporting perishable and nutritious products to countries around the world.

9. Fellow compatriots, I humbly enjoin you to come together, put aside our differences and work with love and strength as we uphold the lyrics of the first stanza of our national anthem, "... the labour of our heroes past shall never be in vain, To serve with heart and might, One nation bound in freedom, peace and unity". With this, our country's potentials and dreams would be brought to reality.

10. On behalf of His Excellency, the President of the Federal Government of Nigeria, Muhammadu BUHARI GCFR, my humble self and the entire staff of the Embassy of Nigeria in Gabon, I say Happy 62<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day Celebrations.

**Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria !!!**

**Long Live the Republic of Gabon !!!**

**His Excellency, Raymond Udoffe Brown,  
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Gabon.**