

CEREMONY RELATED TO THE FOUNDATION STONE LAYING AND START OF THE WORKS OF THE DRY PORT OF TORI BOSSITO

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**Excellency the President of the Republic, Head of State, Head of the
Government, Head of this ceremony,
Dear President of the National Assembly,
Dear President of the Constitutional Court,
Dear Prime Minister,
Dear Minister of Economy and Finances,
Dear Minister of Public Transports and Public Works,
Dear Minister Delegate to the President of the Republic in charge of
Shipping Economy, Shipping Transports and port Infrastructures,
Dear Ministers,
Dear Presidents of the High Institutions of the Republic,
Dear Ambassadors and Representatives of International Organizations
accredited in Benin Republic,
Dear President of the Board of Directors of the Autonomous Port of
Cotonou,
Dear General Director of the Autonomous Port of Cotonou,
Dear General Directors and Central Directors of Benin Administration,
Dear representatives of the Hinterland countries,
Dear Directors of companies operating in port sector,
Honorable guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The geopolitical situation, the politico-economic stability and the great commitments of the President of the Republic his Excellency Doctor YAYI BONI in the port reforms, are important advantages for Benin in meeting the demands of the economy globalization which includes competitiveness as one of its main implications.

The current financial crisis represents an important factor that Africa globally speaking and Benin in particular have to avail themselves of by implementing more participative economic policies. This policy should lead to the construction of infrastructures having to do as well with the economic development, poverty reduction as with African integration, an important solution for the salvation of the united Africa

That's what the Government of Benin Republic is getting down to through the number of sure commitments made real by the Head of State by modernizing the economic infrastructures so as to adapt their performances to the goals related to the development of the nation.

The port of Cotonou which is one of the strategic pillars of the development of exports and imports in Benin Republic could not stay away from this evident need to optimize the potential and the operational capacity of public services of economic interest by organizing the necessary adjustments and extensions in order to provide an urgent response to the problem of obstruction due to the increase in traffic as far as the Port of Cotonou is concerned.

Basing on this remark and convinced that any action intending to reinforce the capacities of the Port of Cotonou has a direct influence on the performances and the competitiveness of Benin economy, **His Excellency the President of the Republic** has decided to include the urgent implementation of Tori Bossito Dry Port as well as the one of Parakou among the priorities of his governmental action in the context of a public-private partnership.

The project of Tori Bossito Dry Port placed under the control of port authorities by **His Excellency the President of the Republic** is on the one hand an economic development pole to build on a 101 hectares-54 ares-90 centiares site and on the other hand a project for poverty reduction contributing to the African integration.

Its first vocation is:

- The transshipment of goods among the ships landing at the wet Port of Cotonou and the railway or overland route transport ;
- The temporary stocking of full containers and the stocking of empty containers;
- The handling on site ;
- The induction of the local development ;
- The improvement of the economic situation of Benin compared to the situation in the surrounding countries;
- etc.

In this respect, a global funding of FCFA 70,000,000,000 (Seventy billion CFA francs) is devoted to the project of Tori Bossito Dry Port. 50 billion of this money will be used to put the equipments of the dry Port in place and the 20 billion remaining will be useful for the construction and arrangement of infrastructures for the social welfare of communities. These infrastructures will include mainly two hospitals with one on site and the second off-site and social accommodations.

This project appears to be a consensus project with the whole people involved in port activities. It is very essential for the reduction of the obstruction of the Port of Cotonou in the next twelve months, the reduction of the traffic jam in Cotonou city and the start of a new economic increase dynamics profitable for the Benin people.

I would also like to avail myself of this opportunity to express the deep gratitude and the many thanks of the Group HEMOS-CIAT to **His Excellency the President of the Republic, Head of State, Head of**

the Government for his assistance and trust showed through allowing our organization to implement the Dry Port of Tori Bossito in the context of a public-private partnership for the people involved in port activities.

Beyond the expression of our gratitude, we would like to make you Excellency the President of the Republic an official promise before the whole Benin Nation that we will implement the Dry Port of Tori Bossito and make it ready for exploitation meeting the agreed deadlines. We will do this to honor you and give a new development opportunity to all Benin localities especially the ones of Tori Bossito and Allada.

We would also like to thank the whole members of your Government especially the Prime minister, the Minister Delegate to the President of the Republic in charge of shipping economy, shipping transports and port infrastructures, the Dialogue Circle of Port Activities (CCAP), the Association for the promotion of the port of Cotonou (APPC), the President of the Board of Directors and the General Director of the Autonomous Port of Cotonou as well as all those I have not been able to mention here and who didn't hesitate to help us efficiently on request to give the project of the Dry Port of Tori Bossito a chance to become reality.

Excellency the President of the Republic, today, public-private partnership that has proved efficient in other countries worldwide as an economic and social development instrument and that you chose to make Benin Republic one of the emergent countries needs to be accepted by all, private investors, governmental Authorities, local communities and public organizations so as to provide the emergent Benin Republic with a new foundation under your enlightened management.

In this noble undertaking, we would like to ensure you that you can count on the group HEMOS-CIAT to meet the great challenges of fund mobilization and the implementation of the great projects you are planning for Benin Republic.

We dedicate this project to Almighty God He who made Heaven and Earth.

Thank you.

Speech made in Tori Bossito on December 14, 2011