



EMBASSY OF THE  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA  
LISBON - PORTUGAL

**Speech by His Excellency Alex E. Kefas, Nigeria's  
Ambassador to the Portuguese Republic on the occasion of  
Nigeria's 61<sup>st</sup> Independence Anniversary**

I write you on this important epoch occasion of the 61<sup>st</sup> Independence Anniversary of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

2. As we celebrate our independence anniversary, let me use this opportunity to urge all Nigerians living in Portugal to continue to do their best in their various endeavors. You should always remember to represent the country in a positive manner and shun all activities detrimental to the image of Nigeria in Portugal.

3. Nigeria has achieved a lot in 61 years and it is important to reflect on how we got to where we are today. The efforts of our heroes past should therefore not be allowed to go in vain.

**Fellow Nigerians in Portugal,**

5. My message to you on this anniversary celebration is that the corporate existence of Nigeria as one entity is very important to all of us. I urge you to not allow yourselves to be used in any act detrimental to the country.

6. As you are all aware there are over 250 ethnic groups in Nigeria and no matter what any section of the country may agitate for, there is no doubt that our strength is in our diversity. The Nigerian project must therefore be allowed to work and be sustained through harnessing of our human and material endowments.

7. The government of President Muhammad Buhari has achieved a lot especially in diversifying the revenue base of the federation from dependence on oil to agriculture. This without a doubt has

provided job opportunities to our youths and also increased the revenue base of the country. The administration has also embarked on massive infrastructural development across the country.

8. In recent times, Nigeria has been recording tremendous success in the fight against armed banditry and other forms of terrorism. Even though there may be some pockets of resistance, the efforts of the security agencies including our soldiers should be commended.

9. It is in this wise that I urge all Nigerians in Diaspora to support the effort of the government and take full advantage of the transformation agenda of Mr. President by investing in Nigeria in order to contribute towards building a stronger nation. Nigeria surely needs you to progress!

10. Finally, it was my wish to organize a befitting celebration for this year's independence anniversary, but due to the existing health challenges (pandemic), this was not possible. I assure you that next year will be different as things gradually return to normalcy.

11. On this note, I wish you and your family members a Happy Independence Anniversary and pray that God will bless and prosper each and every one of us.

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria,

And

Happy Independence Anniversary!!!