



PRESS RELEASE

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

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FAURE GNASSINGBE STEPS DOWN ECOWAS LIFTS SANCTIONS

The sanctions imposed by ECOWAS on Togo on February 19th 2005 are lifted with immediate effect. This step was taken following Mr. Faure Gnassingbe's decision to step down as President of Togo in compliance with the demand of the ECOWAS Extraordinary summit of February 9th held in Niamey.

The Chairman of ECOWAS, President Tandja of Niger has welcomed Mr. Faure Gnassingbe's decision.

The subsequent election of Mr. Abass Bonfoh as speaker of the National Assembly and interim President of Togo is a positive development which ensures the full return to constitutional legality.

ECOWAS calls upon all the Togolese parties to strictly respect the provisions of the 1992 Togolese Constitution amended in 2002, and work towards the holding of presidential elections within sixty (60) days.

ECOWAS hereby renews its commitment to assist the Togolese authorities in ensuring the holding of free, fair and transparent elections.

ECOWAS wishes to call upon the African Union, the United Nations, the European Union and other partners to provide necessary support for the conduct of the elections.

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