

# Zambia independence day

## Consolidating independence through food security

Mbikusita W. Lewanika  
AMBASSADOR OF ZAMBIA

On Oct. 24, Zambia celebrates its National Day marking 46 years of independence from British colonial rule. Immediately upon achieving independence, Zambia established diplomatic ties with Japan leading to a long-lasting relationship in political, economic and social spheres.



I would like on this occasion, on behalf of H.E. President Rupiah B. Banda, the government and people of the Republic of Zambia, to convey the deepest respect to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and to H.E. Prime Minister Naoto Kan. I would like to express gratitude to the government and people of Japan for their friendship and assistance to the government and people of Zambia.

The peace-loving people of Zambia desire that under the Democratic Party of Japan-led

government existing bilateral relations between the two countries grow from strength to strength as Zambia continues to enjoy uninterrupted tranquility, peace and political stability since gaining independence in 1964.

When President Rupiah Bwezani Banda was sworn in as the fourth president of the Republic of Zambia on Nov. 2, 2008, he stressed that the private sector remains the engine of economic growth and the implementation of the private sector development reforms program that was launched in 2004 will continue to be a platform for faster and sustainable private sector-led growth. The government is reviewing the Zambia Development Agency Act No. 11 of 2006 to ensure that it meets the various needs of the private sector. Further, the government is reviewing the Competition and Fair Trading Act to take on board the broad interests of investors and consumers.

Tourism is among the four economic sectors targeted by the government as priorities in



H.E. President of Zambia  
Rupiah Bwezani Banda

our country's development. In the fifth National Development Plan, which is also now under review, and the Vision 2030 the objective is to make Zambia a major tourism destination of choice with unique features that should contribute to sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction by 2030. The policy to use tourism as a tool for income generation, poverty reduction, job creation and business development will continue to be pursued and with the help of Japanese investors, success is assured. The development of projects under the tourism sector includes development of greater Livingstone

through infrastructure improvement and the construction of Mukuni Park. Other projects to be developed include the Northern circuit, which includes Kasaba Bay and Samfya White Sands. In Lusaka, the South East Park is to be developed while the Kafue National Park is undergoing a face-lift and investors from Japan are invited to put up hotel facilities. These developments will continue to be pursued using both public and private investments.

The Zambian economy has been recording positive trends in the key macroeconomic indicators. The gross domestic product (GDP) in real terms has averaged more than 6 percent per annum over the past six years. Inflation declined and for the first time in three decades a single digit rate of 7.7 percent was registered in September. The interest rates also declined from 43 percent in 2002 to 19 percent by June 2008, thereby making credit relatively affordable to productive sectors of the economy. This is expected to drop drastically in the near future.

Improvements have equally been registered in the external sector where gross international reserves increased to an unprecedented level of \$1.4 billion

as of the end of June 2008. The government is aware of the impact of the rise in oil prices and the rise in some food prices and their negative impact and measures are in place to cushion the domestic economy.

Economic diversification from mining is a continuous struggle to free Zambia from depending on one commodity. Copper production and copper prices have been on the upswing due to increased foreign direct investment. Zambia is now the biggest producer of copper in Africa.

In the agricultural sector — which is this year's independence celebration theme: Consolidating Our Independence Through Food Security — the government has implemented policies that have enabled our country to score significant achievements. Zambia is today food-secure with a surplus of corn with an unprecedented harvest of 2.7 million tons, some of which has been exported to neighboring countries.

And in terms of agricultural infrastructure, the government has, in the past few years, constructed and rehabilitated feeder roads, bridges, market sheds and other structures under the rural investment fund. To this end, the government procured road construction and maintenance

equipment to be used in all 73 districts of the country.

As pointed out earlier, Zambia has been a predominantly mining nation. In the recent past, the sector has attracted massive investment due to the high prices of metals on the world market and friendly investor policies that the government introduced. More than 50,000 jobs have been created. This additional revenue of more than \$400 million is facilitating implementation of national programs in areas such as health, education and infrastructure development. In addition, the government in 2009 advertised for prospectors to start bidding for exploration of oil and gas in North Western, Luapula, Eastern and Western provinces.

The attractive economic and investment policies put in place in the last decade have made Zambia an investment destination of choice on the African continent.

Zambia realizes that not all these goals can be achieved without the support of our partners in development like Japan through the TICAD IV (Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development) process. The Japanese government is committed to doubling its Official Development Assis-



Natural wonder: Zambia is home to the eastern side of the Victoria Falls. EMBASSY OF ZAMBIA

tance (ODA) to Africa, for which Zambia is most grateful. Zambia has benefited greatly from Japan in the fields of education, health, infrastructure development, manpower and human resource development and cultural exchanges, which we wish to be continued and strengthened.

In addition, Zambia is delighted that, during the African Outreach session at the G-8 Muskoka Summit in Canada in June, Prime Minister Kan announced that Japan would provide additional assistance of up to ¥50 billion, approximately \$500 million, for maternal and child health, which was the main agenda of the last African Union Summit in July. Zambia also takes serious note of Ja-

pan's assistance in infrastructure and agricultural development worth \$2 billion over two years by making use of yen loans, and that to boost trade and investment, Japan has been dispatching Trade and Investment Missions to Africa, one of which visited Zambia.

It is Zambia's wish that the close ties that the country enjoys with Japan grow from strength to strength for the mutual benefit of the two countries and peoples.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the sponsors, Toyota Tsusho Co. and the Japan-Zambia Friendship Association, for making it possible for me to publish this message in The Japan Times.

Thank you.

## Strengthening bonds of friendship

Katsumi Yamaguchi  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-ZAMBIA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION; PRESIDENT, ECC GROUP OF SCHOOLS

Congratulations on the 46th anniversary celebration of the Independence Day of the Republic of Zambia. Since the founding of our Japan-Zambia Friendship Association in 1975, it has been a great honor to join the people of the Republic of Zambia in celebrating its Independence Day each year.



The establishment of our association is based on the Founding Philosophy of ECC Foreign Language Institute, which is the parent body of our association: "It is our goal, through the teaching of foreign languages, to contribute to the development of our students' capabilities, international awareness and leadership qualities. In this way, we hope to promote more interaction and understanding among the peoples of the world, thus helping to contribute to world peace."

Our association has carried out various activities to promote mutual understanding and to form bonds of friendship between the people of Zambia and the people of Japan. These efforts are made possible through joint work with the ECC Save-the-Earth Campaign, an annual endeavor of the ECC Group of Schools and the Japan-Zambia Friendship Association — with the ultimate objective of eliminating the three great human tragedies of war, poverty and disease. This yearly campaign collects donations from students and staff, as well as the general public.

The association and the ECC Group of Schools will continue to make efforts, even in our small way, in the hopes of strengthening and increasing the ties of friendship between our two nations.

On behalf of the members of our association, all of the ECC students and staff, and the people of Japan, we are sincerely pleased on this occasion to once again extend our warmest congratulations to President Rupiah Bwezani Banda and our love and friendship to all the people of this peace-loving country, the Republic of Zambia.

## Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Zambia on Their 46th Independence Day



## JAPAN-ZAMBIA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

Head Office  
c/o Yamaguchi-Gakuen  
ECC Computer College Bldg. No. 3 (7F)  
1-4-13 Nakazaki-nishi, Kita-ku, Osaka 530-0015  
TEL (06) 6372-5144 FAX (06) 6372-4151

Tokyo Office  
c/o ECC Tokyo, Headquarters,  
7-11-10 Nishi-shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0023

Nagoya Office  
c/o ECC Nagoya, Kanayama Bldg. 9F  
1-16-16 Kanayama, Naka-ku, Nagoya 460-0022  
Fukuoka Office  
c/o ECC Fukuoka, Grand Bldg. 2F  
9-5 Daimyo 2-chome, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka 810-0041  
Miyazaki Office  
c/o ECC Miyazaki, Kariyon Bldg. 2F  
3-10-36 Tachibana Dori Nishi, Miyazaki 880-0001

## Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Zambia on Their 46th Independence Day



G VALUE  
with you  
Global Glowing Generating

**TOYOTA TSUSHO CORPORATION**  
Metals/ Machinery & Electronics/ Automotive/ Energy & Chemicals/ Produce & Foodstuffs/ Consumer Products, Services & Materials

Head Office : 9-8 Meieki 4-chome, Nakamura-ku, Nagoya 81-52-584-5013  
Tokyo Head Office : 8-1 Marunouchi 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 81-3-5288-2081

[www.toyota-tsusho.com](http://www.toyota-tsusho.com)

**Toyota Zambia Ltd.**

(Official Authorized Toyota Distributor in Zambia)  
P.O. Box 33438, Cairo Rd., North End, Lusaka, ZAMBIA  
TEL: +260-1-229109 FAX: +260-1-223846  
Web site: <http://www.toyota-africa.com/countrytop/zambia.asp>