

Malawi national day

Sustainable peace, stability and good governance

Ruben Ngwenya
AMBASSADOR OF MALAWI

Tomorrow, July 6, Malawi is commemorating 50 years of Independence and it is my greatest pleasure to convey the warmest greetings from The State President of the Republic of Malawi, H.E. professor Arthur Peter Mutharika to their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the people of Japan.

As Malawi celebrates her successful journey, she also re-



flects on her achievements. Malawi would like to take this opportunity to thank our co-operating partners for their assistance, including Japan, which was one of the first countries to recognize Malawi in the year it achieved independence.

Economic policies

Malawi's economy has continued to grow over time. Through its sound economic policies the country has made meaningful progress in various economic growth sectors, which include agriculture, mining and tourism.

Malawi continues to revisit policies to improve its trading and investment environment



H.E. Arthur Peter Mutharika,
president of the Republic of Malawi

for both local and international investors. Investors are free to engage in any form of business without political interference. The number of both

multinational enterprises and small/medium enterprises doing business in Malawi is currently increasing in this welcoming environment.

Regionally, Malawi is a member and the current chair of Southern African Development Community (SADC). The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the African Union represent a huge market of over 500 million people. The opening of trade has helped Malawi access international markets.

Malawi has recently discovered a number of minerals, including rare earths and uranium, presenting an opportunity for investors to take advantage of this newly

discovered mining industry. Malawi remains highly dependent on agriculture and with the introduction of the high-tech industry, Malawi could be a leader in food sufficiency and boost its agricultural exports.

Sustainable peace

Malawi continues to register positive strides in other areas, including sustainable peace, stability and good governance.

Socially, Malawi has enjoyed success in maintaining peace despite having more than 17 tribes and languages, different religions and over 20 political parties. Malawi has never experienced a civil war.

Malawians are free in exercising their right to join any political group or religion. Additionally, various religious groups pray together in some national interdenominational programs. The country is also benefiting from religious institutions through the different social obligations they provide, especially in hospitals and schools that accept all Malawians regardless of faith.

Since 1994, when Malawi adopted a multiparty democracy, the country has managed to hold peaceful elections that have seen the systematic transfer of power. The recent victory of Mutharika as the fifth President of Malawi following the May 20 general elections is a clear testimony of continued democracy and respect for Malawi's Constitution and the rule of law.

The country has a legal framework that maintains human rights through the establishment of human rights watch institutions such as the Office of the Ombudsman and the Anti-Corruption Bureau and the Human Rights Commission to provide checks and balances on the government and the public. There has also been growth in the freedom enjoyed by both print and electronic media.



Above, Mount Mulanje is a large monadnock in southern Malawi. It measures about 22 x 26 km and rises to 3,002 meters at its highest point, Sapitwa Peak. Right, Lake Malawi is known for its enormous variety of fish, many of which are found only there.

EMBASSY OF MALAWI



Malawi has also seen great success in reducing maternal and infant mortality rates. The continuous building of hospitals and clinics by the government as well as the private sector has increased access to health care for all.

Malawi has made great strides in the education sector. The introduction of free primary education has increased the enrollment of students, resulting in higher literacy levels. The country has also seen improvements in provisions for higher education with many institutions providing accredited degrees and diploma courses from both local and international boards.

A Tourist Destination

Malawi is also a favorite des-

ination for tourists from all over the world and has several UNESCO World Heritage sites such as Lake Malawi National Park and the Chongoni Rock-Art Area. Lake Malawi is a freshwater lake with beautiful, exotic beaches. Malawi has lots of untapped potential to be discovered in its pure and undisturbed form. The country is accessible by land, air and sea and continues to be a favorable destination for many tourists.

Malawi-Japan relations

As mentioned earlier, relations between Malawi and Japan have been excellent since our independence. Currently, Malawi boasts the largest number of Japanese volunteers (over 1,500) work-

ing in various institutions such as hospitals, schools, information and communications technology and agriculture just to mention a few. Japan also provides support through grants and technical assistance in areas of electricity, construction of roads and schools, water supply and many more areas.

Malawi has many opportunities in trade and investment, including innovative sustainable growth in agriculture, exports and mining.

Malawi is no doubt the best country to visit, invest and trade with due to its peaceful atmosphere, economic growth and excellent policies that support trade and investment. Time is of the essence and the time is now.

Congratulations
to the People
of
the Republic of Malawi
on the 50th Anniversary
of
Their Independence



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