
Namibia National Day

Safeguarding peace and political stability

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On March 21, 1990, Namibia gained its independence and, following this achievement,



we needed to develop a new narrative for a country that had been fractured under the apartheid system. We

had to overcome the hatred of the past, hatred between blacks and whites and hatred between different linguistic and ethnic groups.

The first priority of the independent Namibia was to ensure peace and political stability.

How did Namibia ensure peace and political stability?

Good governance, a policy

of national reconciliation, sound economic management and, perhaps most important, the spirit of the Namibian people who were determined to move on together.

As expected, independence came with expectations. These expectations included those for education, health services, land, safety, justice, freedom of movement, as well as those regarding life and liberty.

Therefore, the focus of the Namibian economy since independence has been directed toward achieving greater rates of economic growth, as well as a reduction of poverty and unemployment.

Decisive steps have been taken to encourage and promote local control over economic resources with a view to providing benefits for the majority of our people. A key strategy is the systematic

promotion of manufacturing. In this regard, the Embassy of Namibia has successfully organized a Namibia-Japan Business Seminar, which will take place in June. I am grateful for the overwhelming support we have received from the Japanese government, as well as the Japanese business community.

Japan as a friend of Namibia has committed itself to assist with human resource development and capacity building. The government of Japan is currently engaged in rural projects such as developing models of agriculture that are more resistant to drought and flooding.

Another priority of the Namibian government has been the promotion of tourism, which is one of the country's fastest-growing industries. Namibia is rated as one of the prime tourist destinations in the world. We have over 300

days of sunshine per year, a beautiful coast, deserts, wildlife and a rich culture. This is all in addition to peace and political stability, as well as an excellent tourism infrastructure.

Namibia recorded close to 1.5 million foreign visitors last year — almost outnumbering the 2.2 million population of the whole country. The majority of tourists to Namibia come from Western Europe, North America and South Africa. I'd like to take this opportunity to invite Japanese people to choose Namibia as their next tourist destination.

In conclusion, I convey the gratitude of the Namibian people to the people of Japan for always being friends to Namibia and for their continued spirit of cooperation between our countries; something Japan has consistently demonstrated.