

# Mozambique National Day

## Investment seen increasing

Jose Maria Morais  
AMBASSADOR OF MOZAMBIQUE

On June 25 Mozambique celebrates its 41st Anniversary of Independence. On this historic day I would like, on behalf of the government of Mozambique and myself, to present my warmest congratulations to the Mozambican community residing in Japan and wish them happy commemorations.

Let me take this opportunity to extend to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko best wishes of good health and happiness. My greetings are equally extended to the Japanese government and people, as well as to all friends of Mozambique.

Every year when we celebrate the Independence of Mozambique, we pay our tribute to all who struggled for the independence of our country. We pay also and respect and thank all the friendly countries that helped Mozambique in different ways to reach its liberty.

Mozambique is a country with established democratic institutions and legislative, presidential and municipal elections have been held every five years since 1994.

Today Mozambique is an emerging economy and is one

of the 10 fastest-growing economies in the world. This is thanks to the successful developments choices we have made, as well the hard work, commitment and determination of our people to have a better Mozambique.

After many years experiencing strong economic growth with an annual growth rate of more than 7.5 percent, with 6.3 percent in 2015, there is a prevision of more direct foreign investment coming to Mozambique. Mozambique's GDP in the last five years is considered one of the highest among non-oil exporting countries.

Sectors such as agriculture and agro-processing, mineral resources and energy, tourism, financial services and development of infrastructure, including telecommunications and transport, have contributed to the economic growth of the country.

In the social sphere, education is still a challenge, although it's important to highlight that illiteracy was reduced from 97 percent at independence to 48 percent today. Currently 85 percent of children are enrolled in primary education and the majority of the population has access to primary health care services.

To ensure inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic development, the government has chosen the maintenance and consolidation of peace and stability as a central priority of its agenda. And the promotion of industrialization oriented to the

modernization and diversification of the economy is one of the strategic objectives of Mozambique's Governance Programme.

In this context, the government's 2015-2019 five-year plan is focused on five pillars, which are priorities for socioeconomic development, namely consolidation of national unity, peace and sovereignty; development of human and social capital; promotion of employment, productivity and competitiveness; development of economic and social infrastructure; and sustainable and transparent management of natural resources and the environment. This program will ensure the government continues its efforts to eradicate poverty and to improve the standard of living of Mozambicans.

### Bilateral cooperation

Japan is one of the countries that has partnered with us since 1977 when we established diplomatic relations and I am happy to report that we are satisfied with the level of our bilateral cooperation. The "AMIZADE Agreement" that was signed during the visit of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Mozambique in January 2014 guides the program of cooperation. The agreement focuses on the provision of social and economic infrastructure, support for education and health, development of human resources, capacity building, agriculture, community development, mitigation of the effects of climate

change, food security, water and sanitation improvement, science and technology and the promotion of business.

On the economic front, the existence of abundant natural resources, particularly the discovery of reserves of natural gas in the Rovuma Basin, is the main catalyzing factor of the current dynamism that characterizes the business interactions between Mozambique and Japan. But other areas such as agriculture, fisheries, consultancy, real estate, engineering and trade are also part of the business portfolio between our two countries. We thank these businesses for participating in the development of Mozambique and encourage them to continue.

The political dialogue, which is being conducted through regular high-level policy dialogue and public-private joint dialogue, is designed to promote a better understanding of the development needs between the political leadership of the two countries to create an appropriate environment for cooperation to flow. On the other hand, the regular political dialogue will ensure that business initiatives have political backing and the necessary support from both governments.

The meetings that have taken place in recent years between the leadership of our two countries, during the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) summits and during the visit of Abe to Mo-

zambique in 2014, were important occasions to realize high-level political dialogue to promote cooperation between our two countries.

The planned visit of His Excellency President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi to Japan will constitute another important step in the relations between Mozambique and Japan. It will be a very important occasion for political and economic relations.

Under our bilateral cooperation and in the context of revitalization of the economy, an important program is currently underway along the Nacala Corridor that links the Port of Nacala, in Nampula, Mozambique, to the province of Niassa, in northwest Mozambique and the Republic of Malawi. This corridor has been identified as one of the priority initiatives under TICAD V and is designed to support regional integration in Africa.

The Port of Nacala is currently undergoing a refurbishment, expansion and modernization through a combination of overseas development assistance and soft loans provided by the governments of Japan and Mozambique. The program also includes the improvement of the road network and supply of power to the port.

Another important TICAD initiative that is being implemented in the context of triangular cooperation between Mozambique, Japan and Brazil is the ProSavana, a program designed to transform subsistence farmers into commercial producers through the transfer of agro-technologies. The ProSavana is inspired by the PEDSA



People are able to enjoy a wide variety of marine sports on Mozambique's many beautiful beaches. EMBASSY OF MOZAMBIQUE



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Bananas are a key export. EMBASSY OF MOZAMBIQUE

(strategic plan for agricultural sector development), an initiative launched by the government of Mozambique aiming to accelerate the production of staple foods; increase income; ensure access and secure land tenure and natural resources; provide services considering the value chain; promote development of zones with high agricultural potential and; contribute to the balance of payments. The zero draft ProSavana strategic plan has been concluded and consultations with the targeted communities are already taking place in order to arrive at an agreed plan.

The signature in June 2013 of the Reciprocal Liberalization, Promotion and Protection of In-

vestment Agreement between Mozambique and Japan is enhancing the levels of economic cooperation between the two countries. Additionally, the launch in 2014 of the "Japan-Mozambique Development Initiative Based on Natural Gas and Coal" and the ABE Initiative (African Business Education Initiative for Youth) is supporting the development of natural resources, particularly natural gas and coal. Mozambique has in recent years discovered large reserves of natural gas and metallurgical coal.

In June 2015, a vessel carrying the first shipment of coal from Nacala Port arrived at the Kimitsu Works iron mill, representing the first step in the process of exporting our natural resources to Japan, and reinforcing the participation of the Japanese companies in the development of these resources.

We must explore the special relationship between the governments of Japan and Mozambique, our comparative advantages, natural, financial, technological and human capital resources that are the key factors for socioeconomic growth. Japan possesses the advanced technology, know-how and management skills that can be passed to Mozambique through this partnership.

Companies such as Mitsubishi Corp., Mitsui & Co., Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal, Inpex, Hitachi Construction Machinery, Ichi Maputo, Kaneshiro, Sumitomo, Marubeni, Nippon Koei, Chiyoda and Yahiro are already very active in Mozambique and their interests range from coal mining, natural gas development, value addition to gas, provision of technical services, aluminum smelting, logistics, railway infrastructure development, biofuel, agriculture, wood chips, fisheries, recycling, consulting, engineering and real estate. Thanks to this process, trade between the two countries is beginning to show positive signs and is expected to grow as exports of coal and liquefied natural gas begin to reach the Japanese market. We are also encouraged by the fact that bananas, clams and beans from Mozambique are already being consumed in Japan.

In the context of education and through the ABE Initiative about 54 of some 300 Mozambicans are already benefiting from

scholarships for post-graduate training in the area of natural resources in Japan. This program is designed to support the initiative taken by the government of Mozambique to develop new skills that will allow the country to provide adequate labor to the projects under development in the coal, gas and petroleum industries. The Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corp. have also been very instrumental in providing short-term training to both the government and the private sector involved in the development of natural resources.

Regarding people-to-people cooperation between the two countries, I would like to highlight the contribution of the Ehime Global Network, a non-government organization, for the contribution they gave in the peace-building process in Mozambique by supporting the project "Tools for Arms," which aims to encourage former soldiers involved in the civil war to exchange their weapons for agricultural tools. The same NGO is currently supporting two schools in Mozambique's Moamba district. Another NGO, the Women's Federation for World Peace, is also doing commendable work through its support of the Sun of Mozambique secondary school in Sofala province over the last 20 years.

Finally, let me stress that while we can celebrate with a sense of accomplishment, we are conscious of the challenges the country still faces. Efforts will continue to consolidate national unity, peace and sovereignty, develop human and social capital, promote employment, productivity and competitiveness, develop economic and social infrastructures and create sustainable and transparent management of natural resources and the environment. It's important that the economic growth rates of the country be reflected in the quality of lives of every Mozambicans. In this process we want to continue with the support of all our partners in development.

I would like to take this opportunity to, once again, invite and encourage Japanese companies to participate in Mozambique's socioeconomic development by taking full advantage of the opportunities Mozambique's emerging economy offers today.

**Congratulations**  
on the 41st Anniversary of  
the Independence of  
the Republic of Mozambique



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