

# Zimbabwe Independence Day Special

## Many opportunities lie in tourism, wildlife

**TITUS M.J. ABU-BASUTU**

AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE



Today the Republic of Zimbabwe celebrates 42 years of independence achieved after a protracted armed liberation struggle. We applaud all the measures taken and guidance issued by

governments to contain and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. We salute the health professionals for the sterling job they've done to save lives, and our hearts go out to those who have lost their loved ones. We thank the Japanese government for having availed all Zimbabweans in Japan the same vaccine protection as it did for its nationals. I also thank The Japan Times and the sponsors for their generosity in publishing this article.

On behalf of the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe Emerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, the government and people of Zimbabwe, I convey greetings to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, and congratulatory greetings to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, the government and people



Kore Kore people are seen in traditional dress in a rural settlement in Mount Darwin. ZTA

of Japan. We are grateful for their hospitality to all Zimbabweans in Japan.

April 18 is a day of celebration and reflection on the journey of nationhood and of looking ahead to achieve more. For the next five years, Zimbabwe celebrates independence under a new development framework, the National Development Strategy 1. We celebrate witnessing a number of infrastructure projects by the government drawing on domestic resources and expertise. National road upgrades and reconstruction, large dam projects to address perennial water challenges for urban centers and irrigation, airport upgrades, expansion of power plants, resuscitation and expansion of mines, and irrigation rehabilitation plans will show results upon completion by the end of 2022. Irrigation development is underway to strengthen food security against climate change.

To facilitate trade, the government, in partnership with the ZimBorders Consortium, has embarked on the modernization of border infrastructure to facilitate the quick and unimpeded flow of trade. Specifically, this covers the Beitbridge Border Post, a major link in the regional North-South Corridor in the Southern African Development Commu-

nity regional transport web. This project is also due for completion by the end the year. The Marongora road project to eliminate constriction on the North-South Corridor will facilitate the easy flow of traffic over the Chirundu Bridge on the Zambezi River, through a one-stop border post, all being projects undertaken with the remarkable cooperation of the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Another major project to address a more than a century-old water-supply challenge to Bulawayo, the nation's second-largest city, is the Lake Gwayi-Shangani construction and pipeline project, which is also scheduled for completion this year. The 245-km pipeline will also support an agriculture belt to increase the resilience of the community by helping to provide food production that will be less impacted by climate change. It will also provide hydropower and innumerable opportunities in tourism and wildlife conservation.

The major construction on the 580-km Beitbridge-Harare Highway is another large project in progress aimed at modernizing infrastructure to attract and sustain needed investment, with 300 kilometers already completed. This is important in advancing

our national and regional development agendas and eliminating bottlenecks in the smooth flow of trade.

Power generation is most critical in the development agenda. The government is currently working on increasing generation capacity at the Hwange Thermal Power Station by an additional 600 megawatts to 1,300 MW. This project will feed into the national grid to propel our national and regional



industrialization drive. Thus, we celebrate our independence with these being some of the milestone projects. As the president said, "The country is built by its own people." "Makorokoto, amhlophe," (omedetō gozaimasu/congratulations).



Above left: Tourists and their guide photograph wildlife on safari in Hwange. Above: The dam wall in Lake Mutirikwi (formerly Kyle Dam) in Masvingo was built in 1960. ZTA

## Congratulations

*to the People of  
the Republic of Zimbabwe  
on the Anniversary  
of Their Independence*

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## Congratulations

We use a mineral called Petalite from Zimbabwe to make Donabe, a fire-proof casserole pot.

私たちは、ジンバブエ共和国のペタライトという鉱物で、土鍋を作っています。

*Peace*

平和への願い

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*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*