
Liberia Independence Day Special

Triple milestone paves way for opportunities

BLAMOH NELSON

AMBASSADOR OF LIBERIA



This year, Liberia is observing three momentous events in its history. The first is the bicentennial of its founding in 1822; the second is the 175th anniversary of its declaration of inde-

pendence on July 26, 1847; and the third is six decades of formal diplomatic relations with Japan.

Liberia has enormous amounts of natural resources. Mineral deposits include gold, iron ore, diamond, tin, nickel, manganese, galena, cobalt, sulfur, silica sand, rutile, phosphate rock, kyanite and granite. Some studies have indicated signs of uranium deposits in Liberia. Offshore, along its 560-kilometer coastline, Liberia has petro-

leum deposits mapped out in 17 blocks, with 12 contracted to four international oil companies.

The country holds 49% of the Upper Guinea Forest of West Africa, which boasts rich biodiversity in both fauna and flora. Liberia also has a warm and wet climate suitable for organic farming. The weather is perfect for year-round cultivation of high-value crops, such as pineapples and papaya. The Liberian coast is also teaming with exotic species of tropical fish. The potential for rapid recovery of agricultural investment, with a focus on food production, is extremely high in Liberia.

Bilateral relations between Liberia and Japan have been sound and mutually rewarding. Liberia has been, and will continue to be, a supportive and dependable friend of Japan on the international stage. In its development assistance to Liberia, the Japanese government has included construction of significant infrastructure, such

as roads, medical centers and market buildings, the rehabilitation of power facilities, a rice monetization program for economic stability and the provision of technical assistance in the form of scholarships for training Liberian medical personnel and agriculture specialists.

Going forward, Liberia is seeking to expand prospects for private-sector investment. There are attractive areas and possibilities: organic agriculture production for the global market, technology marketing, general merchandising, hospitality and tourism, value-added manufacturing and more. All these areas are open in the context and framework of the ongoing meetings of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development. Liberia is ready for business.

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