

Zimbabwe Independence Day Special

Forward progress at home and in space

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AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE OF ZIMBABWE



On April 18, Zimbabweans from all over the world gather to commemorate the 43rd anniversary of independence, attainment of freedom and the birth of democracy.

As we celebrate, I would like to send the emperor and empress, members of the royal family, the prime minister, the government, and the people of Japan my best wishes for health, happiness and prosperity in the coming years.

It is a day to reflect on the shared history, culture and achievements of all Zimbabweans, as well as one to celebrate our diversity and national cohesion. On this historic day, we should also remember our forefathers' supreme sacrifices that led to our independence. I also want to recognize the contributions of everyone who has worked hard to develop our country.

I am encouraged that we are looking forward to the future with hope and optimism, striving to create a better future for ourselves and our children.

Zimbabwe has set a goal of becoming an upper middle-income economy by 2030, led by H.E. President Emmerson Mnangagwa. Since the establishment of the Second Republic in November 2017, the country has pursued cautious and incremental economic and policy reforms, such as opening all sectors, with the exception of diamonds and platinum, to foreign investment, establishing special economic zones, rebuilding infrastructure and improving agriculture. Continuous reforms have resulted in significant economic recovery.

Our country has renewed and strengthened economic ties with both traditional and new foreign partners, instilling great confidence and goodwill among the people. The inflow of foreign direct investment has increased significantly in the last three years, and economic growth has been consistent. In addition, the political environment has become more open and welcoming to investment.

As a landlocked country, we have pursued realpolitik in our foreign policy, emphasizing economic diplomacy to open new trade and investment frontiers. Our pursuit of a robust engagement and re-engagement foreign policy has been guided by the idea that Zimbabwe is a friend to all and an enemy to none. As a result, we have sought to broaden our circle of friends while strengthening ties with countries that have stood by us in the face of unilateral and illegal sanctions imposed by some Western countries on our country outside the framework of the United Nations. We will continue to pursue a pragmatic development path based primarily on our own domestic resources and utilizing local capabilities and expertise.

I am satisfied that our relations with

Japan have remained solid and have gradually expanded in all spheres since the establishment of bilateral relations in 1980.

On Feb. 21, Zimbabwe and Japan held diplomatic consultations to review bilateral relations, regional developments, and map ways of collaboration in international forums, demonstrating our deepening relations.

I applaud Japan for being a consistent development partner for our country, particularly in areas such as road infrastructure, agriculture, water, sanitation, health, education, science and capacity-building, all of which have contributed to our country's socioeconomic growth and development.

On this national day we also celebrate Zimbabwe's entry into space, with the launch of the country's first satellite ZIM-SAT-1 under the Birds-5 constellation on Nov. 7, 2022, thanks to the collaboration between the Zimbabwe National Geospatial Agency, the Kyushu Institute of Technology and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. This one-of-a-kind accomplishment has allowed Zimbabwe to join the ranks of other countries in space science. The satellite is now helping Zimba-

bwe improve weather forecasting, geospatial data collection, crop monitoring and environmental monitoring.

Lastly, Zimbabwe is home to some of the top tourist attractions on Earth, such as the majestic Victoria Falls. I extend an invitation to Japanese nationals to travel to our pristine wildlife reserves and take advantage of the opportunity of a lifetime to experience our nature and wildlife.



Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River is one of the largest waterfalls in the world.

GETTY IMAGES

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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.