

# South Africa National Day Special

## An exceptional democratic journey

**LULAMA SMUTS NGONYAMA**  
AMBASSADOR OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



This year, South Africa celebrates Freedom Day under the theme “30 Years of Democracy, Partnership and Growth.”

April 27 marks the 30th anniversary of South Africa's first

democratic elections.

Our national day, known as Freedom Day, is commemorated every year to honor those unsung heroes and heroines who fought and sacrificed their lives for our freedom and paved the way for an equal, representative and nonracial nation. We also salute and acknowledge the contribution of our neighboring countries and international friends, such as Japan, whose contribution in our fight for freedom will always be remembered.

We are extremely proud of the many

achievements and successes of our nation over our remarkable democratic journey during the past 30 years, notably the peaceful political transition, the establishment of democratic institutions and practices, reconciliation and nation-building. Other significant milestones that have transformed the lives of millions of South Africans include the adoption of a progressive constitution in 1996, the implementation of various social welfare programs aimed at addressing poverty, inequality and unemployment, as well as initiatives and programs to improve access to education and health care, to name just a few.

South Africa, with its rich history, has learned valuable lessons through the crucible of its own challenges. We stand as a testament to the belief that dialogue, understanding and inclusivity can lead to a brighter, more peaceful future across the globe.

South Africa's bilateral relations with Japan continue to flourish across multiple areas of cooperation, particularly in the fields of trade and investment, science, technology, education, skills development assistance, student exchanges, agriculture,



South Africa is known for producing high-quality wines. SA TOURISM

tourism, sport and research partnership programs. Japan is one of South Africa's major investment partners. As of 2023, there are 273 Japanese companies in South Africa providing over 200,000 jobs to the benefit of many South African households.

South Africa shares a special relationship with the people of Japan and will continue to work closely with its Japanese partners to promote and further enhance the ties of friendship and cooperation over many years.

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

## Celebrating

the anniversary of  
Freedom Day:  
27<sup>th</sup> April 2024

*Honouring the anniversary of  
South Africa's first  
democratic elections in 1994.*

# KOMATSU

Creating value together

## Congratulations

*on the Anniversary of  
the Freedom Day of  
the Republic of South Africa*

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