

# Rwanda national day

## Building a prosperous nation for all Rwandans

Antoine Munyakazi-Juru  
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
RWANDA

The occasion of the Liberation Day of the Republic of Rwanda gives me the great honor and privilege to express on behalf of the government of Rwanda and on my own behalf my deepest respect and consideration to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor Akihito and the Empress Michiko.



To all the members of the Imperial Family, the Cabinet and the people of Japan, I convey the warmest greetings from the people of Rwanda.

Today, Rwanda celebrates the 48th anniversary of its inde-

pendence as well as its Liberation Day, marking the 16th anniversary of the day that the Rwandan Patriotic Front/Army liberated Rwandans in 1994 from the oppressive government of the time.

July 4, 1994, marked the end of the genocide against the Tutsi and the birth of the new government that rose from the ashes.

This July 4, the nation will be celebrating its 16th year of peace and the growing prosperity that has been the result. This is a virtually unbelievable, unpredictable achievement in light of the forces that aligned to prevent it. Rwandans will celebrate achievements in different spheres of governance, justice and socioeconomic development for the past 16 years.

Every year, this event is celebrated along a specific theme

and slogan. The theme is always development-focused and aims to encourage and motivate the population toward a common development purpose, that of achieving Rwanda's Vision 2020.

The following theme was proposed this year: "Dukomeze Kubaka u Rwanda Rubereye Abanyarwanda," or "Let us build a prosperous Rwanda for All Rwandans." This theme was suggested against the backdrop that Rwanda's development process is a continuous, concerted effort that every Rwandan should be part of. It aims at inspiring every Rwandan toward a common development purpose agenda.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Rwanda and Japan in July 1962, the two countries have enjoyed very cordial relations and very special relationships were cemented by the appointment by the International Monetary Fund of the late Masaya Hattori as governor of the Rwanda National Bank from 1965 to 1971. He is widely recognized as the one who shaped the institution to its current respectable setup. Since then, the regular exchange of high-level visits has been the hallmark of Rwanda-Japan relations and has helped evolve Rwanda-Japan friendship into a strong partnership. It was in that context that H.E. Paul Kagame, the president of the Republic of Rwanda, joined his African colleagues and the prime minister of Japan to hold the May 2008 TICAD IV Summit in Yokohama.

The opening of the Embassy of Japan in Kigali in January 2010 was a further step in the strengthening of the bilateral relations.

Japan's economic assistance has played an important role in the economic and social development of Rwanda and the cooperation between Rwanda and Japan is mainly focused on the following areas:

- Human resources development
- Rural transformation
- Improvement of economic infrastructures and business de-

velopment

In the health sector and in the fields of water supply, agriculture, energy, capacity building and environment protection, significant advances have been made thanks to the strong support of Japan among other development partners.

This gives me the opportunity to praise the key role played by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Rwanda's development efforts. One of the best examples of that cooperation is the Tumba College of Technology, which offers a whole range of technical and vocational training for young Rwandans and East Africans.

The friendly ties between Japan and Rwanda are not only between the two governments, but it is also important to stress that various institutions, companies and industrials joined hands with Rwanda by exploring new areas of cooperation in such fields as renewable energies, food processing, water purification, medicine and general science. One of the successful examples of these new partnerships is the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Rwanda and Tokushukai Medical Corp., one of the largest Japanese medical groups. In that agreement, both parties convened to work together in developing projects that will provide the best possible health care to the people of Rwanda, starting with the establishment in our country of a complete dialysis center and a renal transplantation unit.

Located in the heart of Africa, Rwanda has made extraordinary progress since 1994 and in just 16 years has transformed itself into one of Africa's most remarkable success stories. Good governance at all levels of public administration, transparency and accountability have been achieved, including the passing of laws that create checks against the abuse of executive power, mismanagement and corruption. On the economic front, the government has embraced an expansionary fiscal policy to reduce

poverty by improving education and infrastructures, and is continuing to implement its own reforms to improve business conditions and to become one of the world's most business-friendly economies.

The rewards of freeing up business continue to be significant, foreign investment has increased fivefold in the last few years and growth remains strong, in spite of the global contraction.

Rwanda is now considered as the fastest reformer of business regulations in the world and one of the best economies in Africa in which to do business.

Rwanda is an attractive destination for investors who are looking for a hub that offers:

- Good governance, peace and security
- Access to a vibrant and progressive population across borderless states
- Business-friendly regulatory environment
- Skilled and multilingual workforce
- Strong and sophisticated financial sector
- An excellent quality of life



Festive: Music and dance play important roles in the traditions of the Rwandan people.

They are the most welcome in the land of a thousand hills and millions of smiles!

On the occasion of our Liberation Day, I sincerely look forward to deepening and strengthening friendship relations between Japan and Rwanda in the years ahead.

Rwanda is still facing considerable challenges for trans-

forming itself into a prosperous nation but due to the strong commitment of its people and the support of friendly nations, and Japan in particular, our

country is on the right track and the remarkable results of the efforts of its people, in terms of development and democracy, are visible.



Largest primate: The mountain gorilla is one of Rwanda's leading tourist attractions. EMBASSY OF RWANDA



Weaving harmony: The sale of Peace Baskets handwoven by Rwandan women is aimed at providing real, sustainable income to local weavers.

**Congratulations**  
to the People of the Republic of Rwanda  
on the 48th Anniversary of the Independence  
and 16th Anniversary of the Liberation Day



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