

# Malawi National Day

## Safe, secure and profitable for investment

Rosemary Kanyuka  
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF MALAWI

Today marks 52 years since Malawi attained independence from Britain and it is my greatest pleasure to convey warmest greetings from the President of the Republic of Malawi His Excellency Arthur Peter Mutharika to their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the people of Japan.

Malawi as a country continues to encourage peaceful co-existence with respect for human rights and rule of law, as well as democratic principles that support full human participation in all social causes affecting humanity.

### Economy

This year's theme for Malawi is "Towards Recovery and Sus-

tainable Socioeconomic Development." Agriculture is the lifeblood of the economy of Malawi, accounting for about 30 percent of GDP. Heavy rains, floods and drought have adversely affected the performance of Malawi's economy in the last year.

To mitigate this, Malawi has enhanced the Green Belt Initiative by creating the Green Belt Authority (GBA) as a stand-alone public agency. The GBA will be the official agent for the construction of large-scale irrigation infrastructure projects throughout the country in line with the National Irrigation Master Plan.

The purpose of the initiative is to create wealth through increased agricultural production and productivity, enterprise development and increased exports. The initiative has seven major components: crops, livestock and fisheries development; infrastructure development and rehabilitation; land administration; environmental management; technology development



**President of the Republic of Malawi His Excellency Arthur Peter Mutharika** EMBASSY OF MALAWI

and dissemination of institutional development; capacity building; and agro-processing and marketing development.

### Trade and investment

Malawi is a safe, sensible and profitable free-market economy, strategically located between Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique. The country is well positioned to act as a global export base in an increasing-

ly competitive market, where access to raw materials and time to market is crucial in maintaining a global supply chain.

Market access from Malawi is guaranteed as the country is signatory to a number of agreements that ensure duty-free access into regional international markets.

Malawi's low cost of doing business is a notable asset particularly when considering labor costs.

Malawi continues to institute a number of reforms in its fiscal policy to ensure that investors find it easy to do business and open their activities in the safe and reliable investment destination of Malawi. This includes eliminating excessive bureaucracy, and loosening international trade restrictions. To this end Malawi has introduced the One Stop Service Centre that houses the Department of Immigration, Malawi Revenue Authority, Ministry of Lands and the Registrar of Companies to facilitate the essential services of registering a business and obtaining the necessary permits within five days.

Additionally, the country is actively promoting investment, through infrastructure upgrades, capacity building within small and medium enterprises and improving access to finance. To accomplish these goals, the country is working on reforms that engage the private sector and donors as partners. In this partnership, the objective is to move Malawi from being a predominantly importing and consuming economy to a predominantly producing and exporting economy.

### Projects

Malawi is landlocked and transport and infrastructure is

vital to Malawi as this has an impact on economic growth and development. The Nacala Corridor project is an important infrastructure project for Malawi, as it would link the country to regional getaways and ports. More crucial to Malawi is the development of the Shire-Zambezi Waterway Project (dredging and realigning work). This project will open a waterway passage from Nsanje, in the south of Malawi, to the Zambezi River in Mozambique that would continue all the way to the Indian Ocean. The route would become an import and export route and would significantly reduce the

transport costs of commodities in and out of Malawi.

### Relationship with Japan

Malawi cherishes her relationship with Japan that dates back to 1964. These relations will be solidified by the president of Malawi's attendance at the sixth Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD VI), which is taking place in Nairobi in August, and where the Japanese prime minister will meet African heads of state to further forge and solidify their relationships.

Malawi continues to enjoy support from Japan on its development agenda for which Ma-



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lawi is grateful.

Last, but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to

thank our sponsors for making it possible for us to publish our message. Arigatou gozaimasu.



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Congratulations  
to the People  
of  
the Republic of Malawi  
on the 52nd Anniversary  
of  
Their Independence



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