

(Anniversary special)

Mozambique National Day

Continuing on path of ongoing development, growth

JOSE MARIA MORAIS
AMBASSADOR OF MOZAMBIQUE



This year, we celebrate too, the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mozambique and Japan. During the last decades, our relations have strengthened and today Japan is one of Mozambique's friends and important development partners. This can be witnessed by Japan's assistance, important development initiatives and investment in several projects in Mozambique, as well as by the regular exchange of contacts between the governments of both countries.

Thus, a reference must be made to the recent official visit of President of the Republic of Mozambique, His Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, to Japan, in March that further strengthened the "Partnership Amizade" that exists between our two countries.

Through this partnership, a comprehensive program of cooperation is implemented, focusing on the development of social and economic infrastructures, support for education and health, capacity building and development of human resources, agriculture, community development, mitigation of the effects of climate change, improvement of food security, water and sanitation, science and technology and the promotion of business.

Among the several important projects for Mozambique's development, allow me to refer to a few, namely the Nacala Corridor, a gateway to Southern Africa, which sees both Japan — through the involvement of the Japanese private sector — and Mozambique developing the Nacala Corridor Economic Development Strategy.

In the agriculture sector, there is an ongoing cooperation on agricultural research and technical transfers in agriculture, food security and livestock farming. Additionally, the ProSavana program aims to contribute directly to the development of agriculture

and food security in Mozambique, benefiting its entire population.

In the context of capacity building and development of human resources, a special reference should be made to the African Business Education (ABE) Initiative in which around 100 Mozambicans are benefiting from scholarships for post-graduate studies in Japan — in several fields — that will contribute to the development of Mozambique. This program will support the initiative taken by the government of Mozambique to develop new skills that will allow the country to provide an adequate labor force for projects under development in the coal, gas and petroleum industries, among others.

The trade relations between our two countries are beginning to show positive signs and are expected to grow as exports of coal and liquefied natural gas begin to reach the Japanese market. In June 2016, the first shipment of coal from Nacala Port arrived on a capesized vessel at Kimitsu Works in Chiba Prefecture, representing the first step in the process of exporting those natural resources to Japan and reinforcing the participation of the Japanese companies in the development of these resources. We are also encouraged by the fact that bananas, clams and beans from Mozambique are already being consumed in Japan.

Another avenue for bilateral cooperation between our two countries is the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), an important, inclusive and transparent forum to address common challenges in Africa. Represented by the most senior levels of government, Mozambique attended TICAD VI in August, in Nairobi, Kenya. This August, my country is honored to host the TICAD VI Follow-up Ministerial Meeting in Mozambique. Currently, both governments are working together to make this event a success.

On the economic front, my government recognizes the vital role of the private sector in promoting sustainable growth and socioeconomic development in Mozambique. A special reference must be made to very important investments made by Japanese companies in Mozambique in very strategic areas of our development, such as energy development, mineral resources and infrastructure, among others. Their presence in Mozambique shows the confidence that they have in Mozambique and their dedica-

I would like, on behalf of the people and government of Mozambique and myself, to present my warmest congratulations to the entire Mozambican community residing in Japan and wish them happy commemorations.

On this happy occasion, I convey my profound respects to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and my warm greetings to the Japanese government and the people of Japan.

After 42 years, Mozambique continues on its path to development and is growing as a democratic nation. Sectors such as agriculture and agro-processing, mineral resources and energy, tourism, financial services and the development of infrastructure, including telecommunications and transport, have been contributing to the economic growth of the country.

To ensure inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development, the government has elected the maintenance and consolidation of peace and stability as a central priority of its action.

These results are due to the successful development choices we have made, the assistance of our development partners and the hard work, commitment and determination of our people to build a better Mozambique.



Mozambique's capital Maputo
EMBASSY OF MOZAMBIQUE

Committed to Mozambique's brighter future

HIROYUKI KATO
REPRESENTATIVE DIRECTOR, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF MITSUI & CO.



It is my distinct honor and privilege to extend my warm greetings to the people of the Republic of Mozambique on this occasion of the 42nd Anniversary of Independence. I would like to render my utmost homage to both the people who fought and struggled to gain independence and the people who have built the country into one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

In terms of the bilateral relationship

between Mozambique and Japan, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. During this memorable year, President of the Republic of Mozambique, His Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, visited Japan in March. Moreover, the Japanese government plans to hold the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) Ministerial Follow-up Meeting in August this year in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique.

In view of the remarkable diplomatic bond between the two countries, investment by the Japanese private sector has been increasing in recent years. Mozambique is located in a strategic area with a long coastline that serves as a gateway for landlocked African countries and ties Africa to the world. The country's land and

ocean are fertile and abundant with food resources. Furthermore, Mozambique is rich with natural resources. These features attract foreign investors, and our company is not an exception.

Mitsui & Co. is currently participating in many projects in Mozambique, including the development of the Rovuma offshore Area-1 natural gas project and the operation of the Moatize coal mine/Nacala Corridor rail and port infrastructure project. Additionally, we are investing in the area of fostering Mozambique's human capital through training programs and seminars to contribute to the further sustainable growth of the country.

I strongly hope for the continued prosperity of the Republic of Mozambique and its citizens, and that the bonds between our two countries deepen.

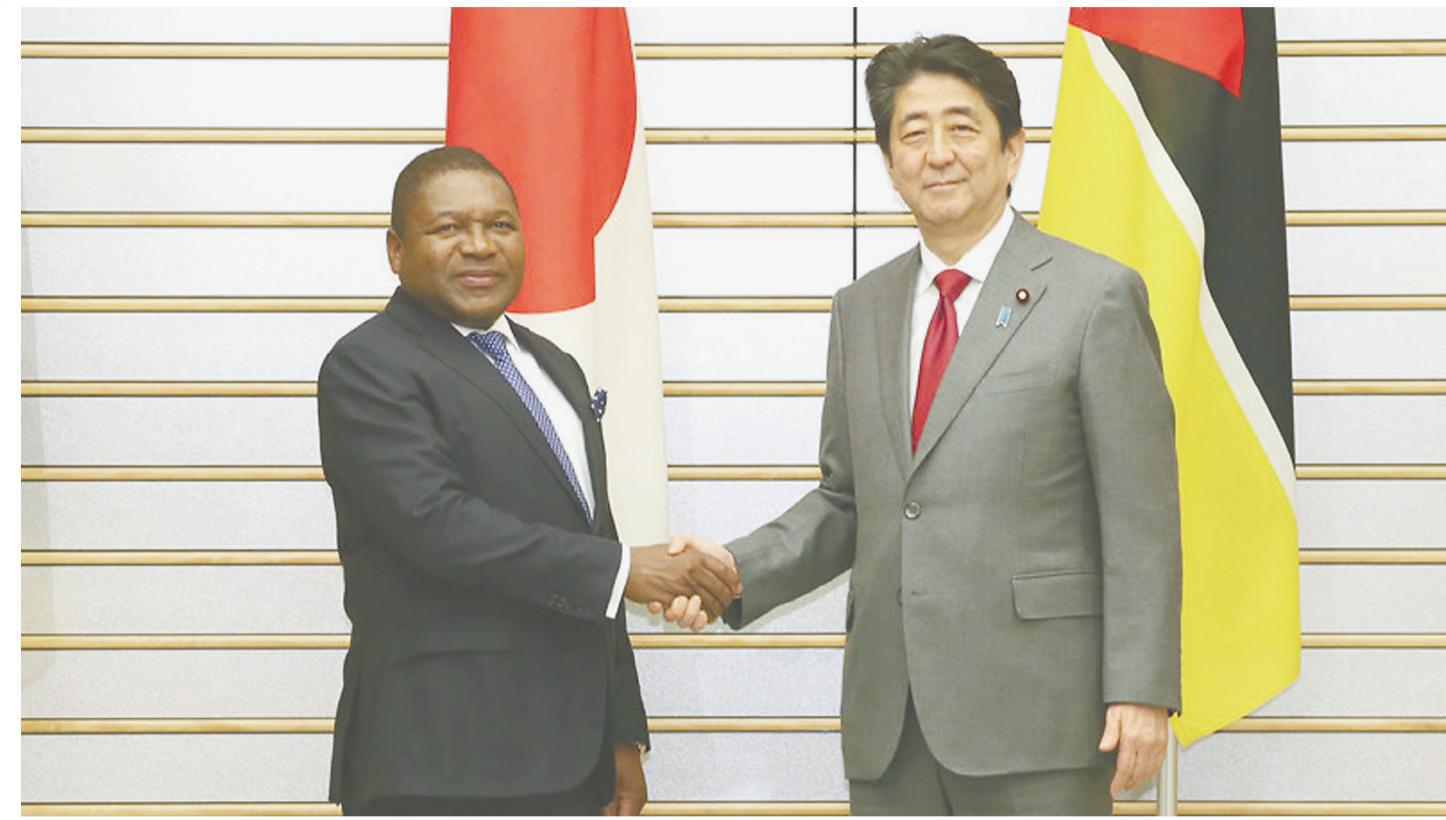
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President of the Republic of Mozambique Filipe Jacinto Nyusi and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands at the Prime Minister's Office in Tokyo on March 15. OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN AND HIS CABINET



The two leaders at a joint press conference following their summit meeting in March OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN AND HIS CABINET

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