

# D.R. Congo National Day Special

## Various sectors see growth as economy improves

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CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



June 30, 1960, is the day the Congolese gained Independence from Belgium. This year I am honored and proud to celebrate its 58th Anniversary. On behalf of the government of the Demo-

cratic Republic of Congo, I would like to extend my congratulations to all fellow Congolese in Japan and wish them health, happiness and prosperity in this beautiful Land of the Rising Sun.

On this happy day, I have the honor and pleasure to extend warm greetings and my most sincere respect from the President of the DRC, H.E. Joseph Kabila Kabange, the government and all Congolese people to their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, as well as to all distinguished members of the Imperial family, the government and people of Japan. The celebration of our independence gives me the opportunity to assess the progress in several fields between

the DRC and Japan.

This 58th national day coincides with a presidential election on Dec. 23, as was promised in a political agreement on Dec. 31, 2016, and the electoral calendar published on Nov. 5, 2017, by the Commission Electorale Nationale Independante. CENI also opened registration for provincial-level electoral candidates from June 24 to July 8 and will open registration for the selection of presidential-level candidates from July. As our president said at the United Nations General Assembly in September, "Procedures to organize the election are irreversible." The president is strongly determined to guide the Congolese nation to free, transparent and stable elections by financing the elections fully on DRC state capital. Like most countries in the world, the DRC considers elections a national sovereignty matter.

Thankfully, through the collaboration of Congolese and foreign partners, the economy is healthy as the national currency rate is stable, with a higher economic growth compared to 2016. This growth is mainly through two sectors, with one being the mining sector and an increase in mining product sales, new mining projects and increased metals exportation, and the other the tertiary sector with increases in public infrastructure and

the establishment of two cement companies (CIMKO, PPC Barnett) in Kongo Central. It is noteworthy that the arabica and robusta coffee bean industry is resuming in the Kivu and Banbundu regions. These beans are noted for their quality and unique rich taste. For the future growth of the country, the government decided to invest in the agricultural, tourism and transport sectors. Already, some major Japanese companies have expressed interest in the transport sector with the Societe Commerciale des Transports et des Ports currently managed by a Congolese CEO educated and trained in Japan.

Through empowering young Africans, the leaders of tomorrow, we highly appreciate the Tokyo International Conference on African Development for the development of Africa and the African Business Initiative that provides internships and promotes higher education. Also, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to Japan for \$700,000 given to UNICEF to fight against the Ebola crisis that spread to the town of Bikoro in Equateur province. Because of Japanese aid and international cooperation, to date it's been 10 days without any additional victims. We hope that we can soon officially declare an end to the Ebola virus spread.

While facing humanitarian issues, we would like to note that descriptions of these are overly dramatized. Some organizations paint a picture of the DRC as a country in permanent wars and we cannot forget statistics published by some of them. The relative instability in two regions of the DRC is mainly a consequence of one neighboring country's internal political problems that negatively impact the DRC. However, the country is not at war, but a victim of terrorists and armed criminal groups at its borders. The outcome of our elections will put an end to that. On Feb. 24, the government invested \$100 million to create a fund to help delocalized Congolese.

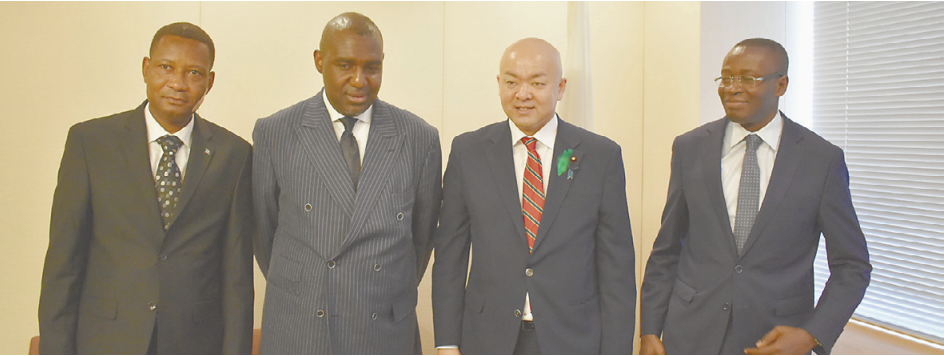
With excellent bilateral relations with Japan, we would be more than happy to see

the Japanese private sector increase investment in the DRC. As said above, the mining, construction, agriculture and tourism sectors offer good opportunities. For the future of both countries, we hope the cooperation and bilateral relationship, started 58 years ago, will grow stronger than ever. Once again, happy birthday, DRC!

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



**General Director Daniel Mukoko Samba of Societe Commerciales des Transports et des Ports presents a gift to Transport Ministry International Division Special Envoy Teppei Fujita in Tokyo in April.** EMBASSY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



**General Director Daniel Mukoko Samba (right) of Societe Commerciales des Transports et des Ports, a Congolese state-owned port and railway company, visits Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Manabu Horii at the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo on April 18.** EMBASSY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

**Congratulations**  
**to the People of the Democratic**  
**Republic of the Congo**  
**on the 58th Anniversary of**  
**Their Independence**

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