

South Africa National Day Special

Nations share a common history, future

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In this momentous year in the Land of the Rising Sun, the people and the government of the Republic of South Africa wish to congratulate Japan for the milestone reached in its

history.

A similar history and a shared future bind Japan and South Africa. Therefore, South Africa wishes to share in the common desire of taking the respective two countries forward. April 27 marks the freedom, democracy and the "Rainbow Nation" of South Africans and all its friends. Most of all, this day commemorates the first democratic elections that were held on April 27 in 1994.

The vibrant democracy fought for so eagerly is anchored in the national Constitution of South Africa, which guarantees equal rights for all, regardless of race, gender, religion and ethnicity. Previously, these rights were denied to black South Africans due to the injustices of apartheid. The dawn of democracy made South Africa a home for all those who live in it, and the government continues to emphasize mutual respect and love for all in the country.

For Japan, 2019 is a crucial year, as Japan will host international events such as the G20 Summit, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) VII and the Rugby World Cup 2019, among others.

South Africa remains ready to participate in these upcoming, prestigious events.

These events provide opportunities to showcase the unique capabilities, goods and services that South Africa offers.

The diversified South African economy provides a range of investment opportunities in sectors with high export potential. South Africa is committed to a strong manufacturing base, improved productivity and developing its manufacturing capability. Furthermore, South Africa is committed to invest in quality, efficiency and innovation.

Moreover, South Africa is pursuing a path of industrial expansion to extract greater value from our natural resources and increase our exports. This will, in turn, create more meaningful jobs and encourage higher, sustainable levels of economic growth and ensure positive returns on investment.

The African continent offers a significant opportunity for the world and South Africa is known as the gateway to Africa. We know from experience that infrastructure has been a key economic driver in South Africa and southern Africa. To this end, South Africa's coordination of infrastructural development through the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission has paid great dividends.

Infrastructural development is better achieved when approached from a regional and continental level, because countries are interlinked through the movement of people and trade, as well as the African Union leadership in the North-South Corridor development.

South Africa is working on expanding investment opportunities and making it easy to do business. It is also seeking innovation that will lift the country and continent out of persistent levels of underdevelopment and poverty.

South Africa joins hands with develop-

ment partners in Japan by investing in the improvement of education quality and transferring skills fit for the purpose of achieving economic growth, enhanced productivity and sustainable development.

In celebrating the new era of Japan, the Reiwa Era, which illuminates Japan's long history, rich culture and beautiful nature, South Africa shares a similar notion. South Africans believe that there is no obstacle big enough from bringing about a new African renaissance.

South Africa has a rich stream of popular music, arts, culture and theater. To sustain these talents, the South African government invests in its people as this presents the country as a land of endless possibilities.

The beauty of the Rainbow Nation is in its diverse attractions ranging from its rich culture and business, as well as scientific and medical inventions. This diversity provides many reasons for discovering new experiences and it is an integral part of South Africa's international tourism promotion.

We are hard at work — our hands joined together — to build a thriving economy



The Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, Cape Town. SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM

and a better society. We are fueled by passion. We are driven by hope.

We are confident that, together, we will succeed.

And then, together, we will celebrate.

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



Spring wild flowers in Namaqualand, Northern Cape.
SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM

Congratulations
on the 25th Anniversary of
the Freedom Day of
the Republic of
South Africa



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