

Angola National Day Special

Solid, extensive ties marked by bilateral cooperation, respect

RUI ORLANDO FERREIRA DE CEITA DA SILVA XAVIER

AMBASSADOR OF ANGOLA



On the auspicious occasion of the 45th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Angola, it is my greatest pleasure and honor to, on behalf of H.E. President Joao Manuel

Goncalves Lourenco, the government and the people of the Republic of Angola, extend my warmest greetings to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, members of the imperial family, the government and people of Japan.

Today marks a cherished milestone in Angola's history, a day which Angolans worldwide proudly and with renewed determination commemorate our nation's birth. As we celebrate this glorious occasion, we pay profound reverence to our brave men and women who paid with blood, sweat and tears for our motherland to become an independent and sovereign state on Nov. 11, 1975. This year's slogan for the Independence Day celebration is "Unidade, Estabilidade e Desenvolvimento" ("Unity, Stability and Development"). The government of the Republic of Angola, under our president's leadership, is committed to taking important strides to create a future that accords our country its rightful place in the community of nations.

We also commemorate 44 years of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Angola and Japan. I am proud to say that the two countries have built strong and cordial relations. We are deeply grateful

to the Japanese government and people for their longstanding friendship and support. The flag of Japan that is permanently hoisted at Josina Machel Hospital, Angola's oldest and largest public hospital refurbished with assistance from Japan, attests to our friendly bilateral ties.

In September 2019, the two countries signed an agreement on technical cooperation and the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers Program. I am confident this will advance multifaceted bilateral cooperation. In October, Toyota de Angola S.A., a subsidiary of Toyota Tsusho Corp., in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency, opened in Luanda the Toyota de Angola Academy, a school for training vehicle maintenance instructors. Through its training programs, the academy will empower Angolan youth with high-level technical skills that will enable them to become job creators, not just job seekers. We will continue to work with the Japanese government, business community and society to strengthen existing bilateral cooperation and identify new and innovative areas of cooperation.

This year the world has been engulfed

by the coronavirus pandemic. It has not only claimed thousands of lives, but has also greatly affected the global economy. The government of the Republic of Angola and its health professionals are engaged in an epic battle against the pandemic's spread, a real and unexpected threat, which challenges the country's response to the needs of providing universal and timely health services to its people. On

behalf of the government and people of the Republic of Angola, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to Japan's government for the support extended to us in the fight against the coronavirus.

To conclude I would like to thank Toyota Tsusho, INPEX Corp. and NS Semicon Co. for their generous contributions toward making publication of this article possible and The Japan Times for its coop-

eration in this endeavor.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my earnest wishes of continued happiness and prosperity of Japan's friendly people in the Reiwa Era and that the partnership between the Republic of Angola and Japan continues to grow for the mutual benefits of our countries and peoples.



Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako say farewell to the Angolan President and first lady in 2019. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Mutual relations can only deepen

YOSHITAKA SAKURADA

CHAIRPERSON, JAPAN-ANGOLA PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION
FORMER MINISTER IN CHARGE OF THE TOKYO OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES



nized the Republic of Angola soon after its independence. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere belief that the friendship between Japan and the Republic of

Angola, a country that has emerged from a devastating civil war, and one I had the opportunity to visit in 2018, will get stronger and stronger.

It is a great honor to convey my heartfelt felicitations to the Republic of Angola on the occasion of its 45th independence anniversary. The friendly Japan-Angola ties date back to February 1976, when Japan recog-

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Congratulations

*to the People of
the Republic of Angola
on the Occasion of
Their Independence Day*

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