

Kenya National Day Special

Election to UN Security Council seat a highlight of challenging year

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Today, Dec. 12 marks the 57th independence anniversary of the Republic of Kenya, Jamhuri Day. At the onset, I wish to convey warm greetings and best wishes to Their Majesties

Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, H.E. Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, the government and friendly people of Japan on behalf of the government and Kenyans in Japan.

Kenya and Japan enjoy excellent relations that span over five decades. To Kenya, Japan is a true friend and reliable partner. Our bilateral cooperation is anchored on the key pillars of infrastructure and private sector development; agriculture; the environment; water and sanitation; human resource development and health. This partnership is in tandem with our national economic blueprint, Kenya Vision 2030 and H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta's Big Four Agenda.

Our relations have continued to thrive over the years, demonstrated by constant high-level visits and consultations. Last year, Kenyatta led a delegation of government officials and private sector leaders to The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development Summit. A

bilateral meeting between our president and Japan's former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe further strengthened our partnership. The president and first lady made an official visit to Japan to witness the enthronement of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito on Oct. 22, 2019.

While reflecting on the upward trajectory of our relations, we note with appreciation the government of Japan's support toward implementing flagship Vision 2030 projects that include the development of quality infrastructure such as the expansion and modernization of Mom-

basa Port and allied infrastructure including the Dongo Kundu Special Economic Zone. Once completed, the zone will serve as a regional logistics, industrial and commercial hub. Geothermal power development at Olkaria is another landmark project, with installed capacity of 700 megawatts, making Kenya Africa's top geothermal power producer.

Kenya's commitment to the principles and ideals of the U.N. has been resolute and consistent, particularly on matters of peace and security, sustainable development and climate change. It is against

this backdrop that Kenya submitted her candidature for a nonpermanent seat on the U.N. Security Council for the period 2021 to 2022. Kenya obtained overwhelming endorsement by the African Union, which was reaffirmed during the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government that took place in Addis Ababa in February. During elections in June, Kenya was elected and is committed to playing a more significant role in the pursuit of world peace and security.

This year saw the emergence and rapid

spread of the coronavirus pandemic that has led to an unprecedented loss of life, global economic slow-down and the postponement of major events including the 2020 Olympic Games. Kenya's government has put in place a series of public health measures to stem the spread of COVID-19. The 8-Point Economic Stimulus Programme is aimed at reinvigorating the economy by supporting vulnerable Kenyans and micro and small enterprises.

Kenya has collaborated with Japan in the fight against this pandemic. Kenya appreciates Japan's recent support

amounting to more than ¥9 billion. A testament to the progressive nature of Kenya and Japan relations is the enhanced capacity of the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) achieved through cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency. Today, KEMRI is at the forefront of Kenya's combined efforts to combat the pandemic.

In line with the ongoing global campaign to tackle the pandemic, I call on Kenyans in Japan and the people of Japan to keep safe and have a happy Jamhuri Day.

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



Kenya's Cabinet Secretary Amb. Raychelle Omamo and Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi in Paris on Oct. 1 MOFA

Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Kenya
on the Anniversary of
Their Independence



from the president and staff of
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