

Madagascar Autonomy Declaration Anniversary

Weathering pandemic difficulties together

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Today, I am honored and proud to recollect the 63rd anniversary of the Declaration of Autonomy of the Malagasy Republic, a historical event conducive to the independence of the

Republic of Madagascar on June 26, 1960.

Indeed, on this important date in 1958, Madagascar withdrew from being a French overseas territory and declared its autonomy under the appellation "Malagasy Republic." The Malagasy Republic fully gained its independence on June 26, 1960, after prolonged negotiations, and Japan was among the first



Speaker of the House of Councilors Akiko Santo meets her Malagasy counterpart Herimanana Razafimahefa in Vienna in September.
HONORABLE RAZAFIMAHEFA HERIMANANA

countries to recognize the nascent republic and establish diplomatic relations by July 5, 1960.

While celebrating our hard-fought past accomplishments, and shaping our present and future, we stand in solidarity with all nations on the shared front line of the global health crisis of the novel coronavirus, and are eager to strengthen cooperation to tackle together new challenges arising.

The past two years offered limited opportunities for in-person engagement. However, our shared interests in multilateralism, and our common values as insular nations, continued to cement our relations.

As proponents of multilateralism, Madagascar and Japan have mutually supported each other for decades. Our athletes reinforced our people-to-people ties while par-

ticipating in the success of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. We encouraged our private sectors to explore potential ventures and foster resilience together against and amid the pandemic during the third Japan-Africa Business Forum, and toward the eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development.

We acknowledge and thank Japan for its continuous engagement, despite ongoing challenges.

The honorable Akiko Santo, speaker of the House of Councilors, and her Malagasy counterpart the honorable Herimanana Razafimahefa, revived our parliamentary exchanges and friendship in Vienna. For the coming years, we are eager to enhance and further invigorate our political dialogue and our parliamentary exchanges

and friendship with Japan.

Japan remains a significant investor and trading partner. We welcome the reopening of the Ambatovy Project in 2021. Japan imports a quarter of its nickel and cobalt from Madagascar. Japanese investment in the mining sector contributes up to 30% of our export revenues. Madagascar is open to all opportunities in trade and investment that Japan offers. We aim to diversify and use our potentials for mutually beneficial outcomes.

Japan is a major development partner. Fiscal 2021 has been laborious, and we are grateful for Japan's sustained support through technical assistance in vital sectors such as agriculture, education, health and capacity-building. We acknowledge and welcome the contribution of Japan's private sec-



Corporate and government officials touch elbows during a contract signing ceremony between Madagascar's Ministry of Land Development and Public Works and Japan's Daiho Corp. in Tokyo in July.
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tor and its engagement in sharing Japanese know-how in critical infrastructure projects and in further advancing and modernizing our maritime and road connectivity.

As a biodiversity hot spot and global eco-tourism destination, we commit to providing greater prosperity and improved quality of life for our people. We welcome further cooperation with Japan in tackling together

global challenges that directly affect the livelihood of our populations, namely climate change and food security.

While hailing the symbolic milestone of our 61st anniversary of independence this year, we aim to celebrate the 62nd anniversary of bilateral relations with Japan, our long-standing and valued natural partner, in 2022.

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

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



The Port of Ehoala constructed in 2009 by Daiho Corporation



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Felicitations to the People of the Republic of Madagascar on the Anniversary of Their Independence



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