

Zambia Independence Day Special

Cooperation fuels socioeconomic growth

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CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, EMBASSY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA IN JAPAN



On this 57th independence anniversary of Zambia, I wish to convey greetings from the President of the Republic of Zambia Hakainde Hichilema to their majesties the emperor and

empress of Japan, the Prime Minister His Excellency Fumio Kishida and the people and government of Japan.

Zambia has remained a beacon of peace and stability over the last 57 years. This is evidenced by smooth transitioning of gov-

ernments after elections, including the one recently held in August. Zambia's peaceful nature is underpinned by a strong belief in national unity, patriotism and the spirit of "One Zambia, One Nation."

Fifty-seven years ago today, after becoming independent, Zambia continued on its path toward economic development. The country continues to make strides in developing key socioeconomic areas, though much remains to be done.

Zambia is committed to ensuring consistency in policy and shall continue building a business-friendly environment that allows greater freedom for businesses.

In his address to the first session of the 13th National Assembly last month, Hichilema stated: "Economic transformation will be the overarching framework that will bring together interventions in the

various sectors of the economy to create jobs and reduce poverty. To this end, government will implement policy measures to promote economic transformation, particularly in job-rich sectors of agriculture, mining, tourism, energy, commerce and industry, green economy and transport, as well as information and communication technology."

Zambia and Japan have continued cooperating in several economic areas that have seen Zambia record improvement in many socioeconomic sectors, including infrastructure, education, health and agriculture, among others.

The strides and acceleration of socioeconomic development largely depend on enhanced economic cooperation and continued investment inflows.

Zambia remains grateful to the city of

Asahi, Chiba Prefecture, and the town of Marumori in Miyagi Prefecture, for participating in the host town program, which was aimed at promoting human, economic and cultural exchanges between Japan and Zambia during and after the delayed 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. The Zambian Embassy in Japan remains committed to implementing and actualizing the spirit of this initiative.

Therefore, I take this opportunity to invite the Japanese business community to invest in Zambia's growing and secure economy. I further appeal to the Japanese people to visit Zambia as tourists and sample its ambience, beauty and hospitality.

I wish to reaffirm the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation that have characterized the relations between Zambia and Japan.



Giraffes amble by a group on safari. Right: A herd of wildebeest are spotted during migration in Liuwa Plain National Park in Zambia's Western Province. EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Praying for continued cooperation and progression of friendly ties

KATSUMI YAMAGUCHI
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-ZAMBIA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION; CHAIRMAN, ECC GROUP OF SCHOOLS

Congratulations on the 57th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Zambia. It is a great honor to join the people of Zambia in celebrating its Independence Day since the establishment of the Japan-Zambia Friendship Association in 1975. On behalf of the members of our association, the students and staff at the ECC Group of Schools and the



people of Japan, we are extremely pleased to extend our warmest congratulations to His Excellency President Hakainde Hichilema, and our love and friendship to the people of the peace-loving country of the Republic of Zambia.

I am very impressed to see Zambia continuing to make steady strides as a peace-

ful, independent nation. I pray for the continued progress of the country and the peace and happiness of all the people of Zambia. Our association is based on the founding philosophy of the ECC Foreign Language Institute, the charter body of the fellowship: "It is our goal, through the teaching of foreign languages, to contribute to the development of our students' capabilities, international awareness and leadership qualities. In this way, we hope to promote more interaction and understanding among the peoples of the world, thus helping to

contribute to world peace."

I hope that through working together to promote bilateral friendship and mutual understanding, ties between the Republic of Zambia and Japan will continue to grow. It is the greatest pleasure for our association to serve the needs of the people of Zambia, even in a small way. With heartfelt wishes for an ever-brighter future, the association and ECC Group of Schools will continue to make efforts in the hope of strengthening and increasing the ties of friendship between our two nations.

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

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on the Anniversary of
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