

# Papua New Guinea National Day Special

## Nation blessed with many resources

**SAMUEL ABAL**  
AMBASSADOR OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Forty-seven years ago, Papua New Guinea became an independent nation from Australia, and the Australian flag was respectfully lowered and ceremoniously handed over in 1975.

For this, firstly we thank God. Secondly, we thank the government and people of Great Britain and especially Australia.

With political independence achieved, we are now striving to become economically self-sustaining.

God has indeed blessed PNG with many natural resources, from gold, silver and copper to oil, gas, timber, rubber, coffee, cocoa, coconuts and many other agricultural commodities, including fish and other marine resources.

However, the No. 1 resource for us remains our 10 million people. We are indeed blessed with 860 languages, and by God's grace have been linked as one people,

one country and one nation. Our national motto is "Unity in Diversity."

Since independence, our foreign policy motto has been "Friends to All and Enemy to None," and we expect others to respect us as a thriving, independent constitutional democracy.

We chose the Almighty as our God, and Queen Elizabeth II of England as our head of state, much loved by the diverse tribes of PNG. As I was drafting this, this remarkable queen passed on. God called her home but allowed sufficient time for us to get used to a king. I am in Tokyo, but PNG will accept the king, as demonstrated by our prime minister being in London to register our condolences. May God save Charles III, the king of Papua New Guinea.

Every nation must have as its greatest goal the upgrading of its peoples' standard of living. Japan is a good and clear example of such an achievement for many of us to follow.

We wish to become a middle-income country and developed nation, and we will, with the help of friendly countries like Japan.

Japan was one of the first to approach PNG with development assistance, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency,

even before we achieved independence. We thank JICA and the people of Japan for these contributions to this day. May God bless the people of Japan.

We especially welcome Japanese businesses and investment. Many of our Japanese friends are already in PNG and can expand. Additionally, we welcome new investment in the agriculture, forestry, fisheries, mineral and hydrocarbon sectors, as well as in our human resources.

PNG is an open economy with almost 50 years of unbroken parliamentary democracy, with young, but sturdy, justice and government systems becoming more able to guarantee the safety of your investments. God has given PNG resources that must be used to benefit both its people and its investors.

Upon completing our national election last month, we returned the Honorable James Marape as our eighth prime minister. This is our 10th general election since independence with no bloodshed or instability.

May God bless Japan and PNG.

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



Left: The ocean provides a wealth of resources. Right: Port Moresby is the capital of Papua New Guinea. GETTY IMAGES

**Congratulations  
to the People of  
Papua New Guinea  
on the Occasion of  
the Anniversary of  
Their Independence**

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