

Angola National Day Special

Strong bonds continue to develop

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AMBASSADOR OF ANGOLA



On the auspicious occasion of the anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Angola, on behalf of the government and the people of the Republic of Angola and on my own behalf,

I have the great honor to convey my warmest greetings to their imperial majesties the emperor and empress of Japan, the members of the imperial family, the government and the friendly people of Japan. On this joyous occasion, I also wish to extend best wishes to the Angolan community and to the friends of Angola in Japan.

Today, Angolans celebrate the unfurling of the black, red and yellow flag on Nov. 11, 1975, which marked the end of centuries of colonization by Portugal and the birth of Angola as a sovereign and independent state. On this great day, as we commemorate the past, celebrate the present and look forward to the future, the Angolan government and Angolans from all walks of life reaffirm the pledge to continue to work with resolve to take the country to new heights.

Since breaking the shackles of colonialism with the blood of our patriots and heroes, Angola has witnessed many challenges, including a devastating 27-year civil war, but rose to the occasion at every turn with resilience and resolve, emerging stronger and as a country that is brimming with hope and promise for a brighter and more prosperous future.

In another step to consolidate its young democracy, on Aug. 24, Angola held its fifth multiparty elections since 1992 and the

fourth consecutive since 2008. Eight parties ran in the election vying for the presidency and 220 seats in the National Assembly. The National Electoral Commission declared the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola winner of the general elections. This year's elections were remarkable because as a result of them, for the first time in the history of Angola, two women are first and second in the presidential line of succession, namely Vice President H.E. Esperanca da Costa and President of the National Assembly H.E. Caroline Cerqueira.

Likewise, for the first time in the history of the country's electoral process, Angolans living overseas were able to vote. Thousands of Angolans have cast their ballots in polling stations in 25 cities in 12 countries, namely South Africa, Namibia, Congo, the Republic of Congo, Zambia, Brazil, Germany, Belgium, France, Portugal, the Netherlands and England.

On Sept. 15, H.E. Joao Lourenco was sworn in for a second five-year term as president of the Republic of Angola. The event was attended by more than 10 heads of state and government, as well as dozens of other representatives. From Japan, the Hon. Yoshitaka Sakurada, member of the House of the Rep-

resentatives, vice-chairperson of the Japan-African Union Parliamentary Friendship League and chairperson of the Japan-Angola Parliamentary Friendship Association, attended the ceremony as a special envoy of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

The year 2022 also marks 46 years since the establishment of bilateral relations between Angola and Japan. I am delighted to note that the friendly and cooperative relations between our countries have been developing and expanding, particularly in the areas of education, human resource development, health, agriculture, infrastructure development and mine clearance. The government and people of Angola highly value and express gratitude for the remarkable assistance and support rendered by the government and people of Japan to Angola over the years. These contributions have continuously accelerated the socioeconomic development of the country.

After more than four decades of building cordial and friendly ties, I strongly believe that Angolan-Japanese relations will continue to grow and that the ties between our peoples and businesses will be further strengthened toward a common prosperity for our countries.

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



Angola's capital sits on Luanda Bay.
EMBASSY OF ANGOLA



The Kalandula Falls are among the highest in Africa.
EMBASSY OF ANGOLA

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



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