

# D.R. Congo National Day Special

## Working to ensure sustainable growth

**LUKUMWENA NSENDA**

AMBASSADOR OF THE DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



2024 began with good omens for the Democratic Republic of Congo: a peaceful democratic exercise that allowed the re-election of His Excellency Felix Tshisekedi as head

of state for a second term, the appointment of Judith Suminwa Tuluka as the first female head of government in Congo's history, and the continuation of major work to achieve the development objectives set during the presidential campaign. 2024 also marks 64 years of independence for my country and I will celebrate them as ambassador for the first time.

Relations between our countries are old and lasting — Japan has always supported the Congo in its desire for independence and sovereignty. Its constant friendship is felt in

its positions throughout the security crisis we are experiencing in the east of the country that is bloodying this region so essential to technological progress and energy transition.

Despite the numerous obstacles that still stand in its way, including foreign interference and the predation of unscrupulous multinationals, the DRC is getting back up and following the example of its African brothers in the Sahel who are positioning themselves against imperialism.

Today, there is not much left of the precursor pan-Africanist movement Presence Africaine, which launched the great decolonization and independence movements of the '50s and '60s and the end of the Cold War that precipitated the polarization of the world with the West as the only mirror. But the Asian boom, made possible by Japan's economic support, particularly toward members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, is leading to a new relationship with the world. South-south cooperation is now a tangible reality and African states are forming new types of partnerships.

In this repositioning, Japan holds a very special place since it was the first country,

through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, to organize one of the rare postcolonial groupings of the 20th century and put Africa back at the center of history. African heads of state will meet in Yokohama in 2025 for TICAD 9, thus marking the great longevity of Japanese-African cooperation.

These 64 years of independence have seen many achievements, but just as many lessons must be learned from the insufficiency of good governance and from the economic policies in disharmony with the most deprived populations. To alleviate the endemic problems in the heart of Africa, we must move toward a decolonized horizon, with the right partners to ensure inclusive and sustainable development. Japan has a big role to play in this matter and I also appeal to Japanese society to participate in the African awakening through the rise of the Congo.

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



**President-elect of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Felix Tshisekedi attends his swearing-in ceremony in Kinshasa on Jan. 20.**  
EMBASSY OF D.R. CONGO

**Congratulations**  
to the People of  
the Democratic Republic of the Congo  
on the Anniversary of Their Independence



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