

# Venezuela National Day Special

## Economic growth remains robust

SEIKO ISHIKAWA  
AMBASSADOR OF VENEZUELA



On the occasion of the celebration of the independence of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, I extend my best wishes of happiness, health and prosperity to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor

Naruhito and Empress Masako, the government and the people of Japan.

Venezuela is experiencing an unprecedented economic transformation, seeing 5% growth in the economy in 2023, with projections of more than 4% growth for 2024, according to national authorities and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

These results are despite one of the most challenging periods in Venezuelan history. Amid the harshest economic blockade, marked by over 900 unilateral coercive measures, commonly known as sanctions, the

Venezuelan people demonstrate an extraordinary capacity to endure and resist. This economic warfare is aimed at breaking the spirit of the nation, yet it has only served to galvanize the collective resolve to protect their sovereignty and independence.

Today, Venezuela reaffirms its strong will to uphold its sovereignty, showcasing to the world that the spirit of independence is not a chapter closed but an ongoing narrative of resilience and defiance. As we reflect on our storied past, we also look forward with hope and unwavering determination, embodying the true essence of being Venezuelan.

Our journey to independence was fraught with challenges. Venezuela, a colony with scant resources, stood against the formidable Spanish Empire. Yet it was the common people, driven by an unbreakable will, who became the backbone of this revolution. Their sacrifices, alongside the strategic brilliance and unwavering resolve of leaders like Simon Bolivar, "El Libertador," forged the path to victory and independence.

The legacy of these forefathers, marked by valor and resilience, continues to inspire Venezuelans. As we celebrate this significant



Mounted *llanero* (herders) work cattle ranches on the Venezuelan plains.

EMBASSY OF VENEZUELA

day and prepare for presidential elections on July 28, we honor not just the historical triumphs, but also the ongoing struggle of Venezuelans who continue to fight for their right to self-determination and stand firm against external pressures, showcasing the same determination and courage that once won our independence and freedom.

*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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to the People of the Bolivarian  
Republic of Venezuela  
on the Occasion of  
the Anniversary of  
Their Independence**



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