

Zambia Independence Day Special

Optimistic for enhanced cooperation

TOBIAS MULIMBIKA
AMBASSADOR OF ZAMBIA



On this occasion of Zambia's 60th independence anniversary, I extend warm greetings from His Excellency President Hakainde Hichilema to their majesties the emperor and empress of Japan,

Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and the people of Japan.

As Zambia celebrates her diamond jubilee on Oct. 24, we reflect on the strong relations between Zambia and Japan that have flourished since Zambia's independence in 1964. This year is significant as it also marks 60 years of diplomatic relations with Japan, showcasing a history of mutual respect and cooperation across numerous sectors of our economies.

The theme of Zambia's 60th Independence Anniversary, "60 Years Strong: Honouring our Heritage, Embracing our Future," resonates deeply as we look back on six decades of nation-building and look forward to a future of continued growth and partnership. Over the years, Japan has contributed significantly to Zambia's development through various projects in sectors such as health, education, agriculture and infrastructure.

As we celebrate this milestone, we aim to strengthen collaboration in critical mineral resources, where Zambia is emerging as a key partner in Japan's decarbonization

efforts. At the Tokyo International Conference on African Development ministerial meeting in August, Zambia's Minister of Finance Situmbeko Musokotwane emphasized the need for deeper economic cooperation that promotes sustainable development and attracts foreign direct investment. He invited Japanese companies to invest in Zambia's rich mineral resources, which include copper, nickel, cobalt and lithium, with a focus on value addition to create jobs and mutual benefits.

Zambia's commitment to providing a conducive business environment is evident through its ongoing economic reforms, which make the country an attractive destination for foreign investors. With a population of 20 million and a rapidly growing economy, Zambia stands as the second-largest copper producer in Africa and ninth in the world. The government's ambitious target of increasing copper production to 3 million metric tons by 2030 further strengthens its mining appeal.

Beyond mining, Zambia offers investment opportunities in manufacturing, agriculture and energy. The government is diversifying the economy, and Japanese businesses are encouraged to explore sectors such as vehicle assembly and electric vehicle manufacturing.

The energy sector, historically dependent on hydropower, is shifting toward solar and wind energy to address climate change challenges. Japanese companies can seize investment opportunities in renewable energy projects, helping to stabilize Zambia's energy supply and support broader economic growth.

With both countries committed to deepening economic and technical cooperation, the future of Zambia-Japan relations looks brighter than ever. We look forward to welcoming Japanese investors and businesses to explore the numerous opportunities that Zambia has to offer, from mining and manufacturing to renewable energy and beyond.

As we celebrate Zambia's 60th independence anniversary, we honor our heritage and embrace a future of continued partnership and prosperity with Japan.



President of Zambia H.E. Hakainde Hichilema

Bright future for mutual friendship

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



I would like to express my congratulations to the people of the Republic of Zambia on the 60th anniversary of their Independence Day. On behalf of the Japan-Zambia Friendship Association, the students and staff of the ECC Group, and the people of Japan, I am sincerely pleased to extend our warmest congratulations to His Excellency President Hakainde Hichilema, and our love and friendship to all the people of peace-loving Zambia.

We are very impressed to see Zambia cele-

brate its diamond jubilee as an independent nation. We hope that by working together to promote bilateral friendship and mutual understanding, the ties between Zambia and Japan will continue to grow as outlined in the founding philosophy of the ECC Foreign Language Institute, the charter body of the association: "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."

With heartfelt wishes for an ever-brighter future, we will continue to make efforts in the hope of strengthening and increasing the ties of friendship between our nations, and throughout the world, with the ultimate objective of eliminating the three great human tragedies of war, poverty and disease.



The sun sets over South Luangwa National Park. Right: Zebras are endemic to Zambia.
EMBASSY OF ZAMBIA



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



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