

Zimbabwe Independence Day Special

Bilateral cooperation boosts friendly bonds

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AMBASSADOR OF ZIMBABWE



This year's National Day commemorations being held under the theme "Zim@45: Devolve and Develop Together Towards Vision 2030" mark 45 years of Zimbabwe's indepen-

dence, attained on April 18, 1980. The 45th National Day anniversary is a milestone in the history of our country and calls for celebration with the global community.

I am joining my fellow citizens here in Japan and South Korea, where I am also accredited, in extending our warm and sincere congratulations to the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe His Excellency Emmerson Mnangagwa and to all Zimbabweans throughout the world on this important National Day.

The theme for this year's celebrations echoes our nation's efforts to empower local communities as well as promote inclusive and equitable national development through devolution, a tenet that is entrenched in our constitution. The government's inclusive approach to the development of the country is clearly spelled out in its mantra of "leaving no one and no place behind," which is meant to ensure that every part of the country is taken into consideration while rolling out development programs. The approach is geared toward ensuring that the vision of becoming an upper middle-income economy by 2030 is realizable.

Our independence anniversary also coincides with the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Zimbabwe and Japan, a journey that has been marked by solid all-around cooperation in different sectors of the

economy. In this regard, I wish to congratulate Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, the other members of the imperial family, as well as the government and people of Japan for this milestone in our bilateral relations.

Over the years, Japan has consistently supported Zimbabwe's development programs, including the current National Development Strategy 1. The support has come in a broad range of areas, including humanitarian interventions, infrastructure, agriculture, health, education, land mine clearance and emergency relief, resulting in the successful implementation of several impactful bilateral projects.

As part of information exchange efforts, the Japan International Cooperation Agency kicked off a new project called the JICA Chair lecture series, with a goal of dispatching Japanese lecturers to our universities to share their knowledge and expertise on Japan's modernization and development experience under such titles as "Japan's Developmental Journey" and "Development of Africa and Japan's Experience."

I am pleased that cooperation dialogues at various levels have continued between our countries and there have been exchange visits by high-ranking dig-

nitaries. Daishiro Yamagiwa of the Japan-African Union Parliamentary Friendship Association visited Zimbabwe in May 2024, while the former Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Frederick Shava visited Japan in August 2024 for a Tokyo International Conference on African Development ministerial meeting. He met with then-Minister of Foreign Affairs Yoko Kamikawa to discuss ways of strengthening economic cooperation, particularly in the agricultural sector. During the meeting, Kamikawa announced further initiatives in support of development in Zimbabwe.

On the sidelines of the TICAD meeting, Shava and JICA President Akihiko Tanaka also met to discuss ways to enhance bilateral cooperation.

The Osaka Expo that began on April 13 and the upcoming ninth TICAD Summit scheduled to take place in Yokohama in August should be excellent opportunities to further deepen bilateral relations with Japan. The expo is a strategic platform for Zimbabwe to market itself as a trade, investment and tourism destination and to create strategic partnerships.

I am convinced that expo participation will give our country an opportunity to engage with millions of visitors, the media

and business leaders to advance our reputation as a world-class destination for tourists. All are invited to visit, trade and invest in our beautiful Zimbabwe, "A World of Wonders."

Arigatō gozaimasu, tatenda and siya-bonga (thank you).

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



Hwange National Park is home to many iconic species of animals.

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on the Anniversary
of Their Independence

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Congratulations

We use a mineral called Petalite from Zimbabwe to make Donabe, a fire-proof casserole pot.

私たちは、ジンバブエ共和国のペタライトという鉱物で、土鍋を作っています。

Peace

平和への願い

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