

South Africa National Day Special

Dialogue and inclusivity for a brighter, peaceful future

ANNELIZE SCHROEDER
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



April 27 marks the 31st anniversary of South Africa's first democratic elections. Our national day, known as Freedom Day, is commemorated every year to honor those unsung heroes and

heroines who fought and sacrificed their lives for our freedom and paved the way for an equal, representative nonracial nation.

We also salute and acknowledge the contribution of our neighboring countries and international friends, such as Japan, whose contribution in our fight for freedom will always be remembered.

We are extremely proud of the many achievements and successes of our nation over our remarkable democratic journey over the past 31 years, notably the peaceful political transition, the establishment of democratic institutions and practices, reconciliation and nation-building.

South Africa, with its rich history, has learned valuable lessons through the crucible of its own challenges. We stand as a testament to the belief that dialogue, understanding and inclusivity can lead to a brighter, more peaceful future across the globe. As our nation looks ahead, it continues striving toward unity, prosperity and inclusive development for all its people.

South Africa's presidency of the Group of 20 leading developed and developing nations, from Dec. 1, 2024, to Nov. 30, marks the first time an African nation has led the G20, providing a crucial platform to prioritize the development needs of Africa and the Global South. It also comes just five years before the deadline

for achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

South Africa's G20 presidency takes place at a time when the world is facing a series of overlapping and mutually reinforcing crises, including climate change, underdevelopment, inequality, poverty, hunger, unemployment, technological changes and geopolitical instability. To tackle these global issues, South Africa has embraced the theme "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability" for its G20 presidency.

It will be the first time that the Afri-

can Union will participate, as a full G20 member, in the ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development scheduled to take place in August in Yokohama. There are many synergies that exist between South Africa's goals and objectives for its G20 presidency and Japan's vision for TICAD. The opportunities that this unique situation presents across a myriad of spheres are therefore manifold and must be rigorously pursued.

South Africa's bilateral relations with Japan continue to flourish across multiple

areas of cooperation, particularly in the fields of trade and investment; science, technology and education; skills development assistance; student exchanges; agriculture; tourism; sport; and research partnership programs. In 2010, relations between our countries were upgraded to a strategic cooperation partnership. This year marks 115 years of relations between South Africa and Japan.

Japan is one of South Africa's major investment partners. As of 2024, there are 273 Japanese companies in South Africa,

sustaining over 200,000 local jobs to the benefit of many South African households. South Africa shares a special relationship with the people of Japan and will continue to work closely with its Japanese partners to promote and further enhance the ties of friendship and cooperation over many years.

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



Sightseers view Cape Town from Table Mountain. SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM

Congratulations

on the Anniversary of

the Freedom Day of

the Republic of South Africa

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JAPAN TOBACCO INC.

Kamiyacho Trust Tower, 1-1, Toranomon 4-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-6927 JAPAN
Phone: +81-3-6636-2914 FAX: +81-3-6772-0495 URL: <http://www.jt.com>

Celebrating the anniversary of
Freedom Day:
27th April 2025

Honouring South Africa's first
democratic election that was
held on this day in 1994.

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Creating value together

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