

D.R. Congo National Day Special

Cooperation seen in various joint projects

LUKUMWENA NSENDA
AMBASSADOR OF THE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



It is with deep emotion and great pride that I take this memorable day of ours, in my capacity as ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo, to celebrate with our readers the 65th anniversary of our nation's independence.

It is also my honor to recognize the achievements of Congolese diplomacy under the leadership of His Excellency the President of the DRC Felix Tshisekedi for the selection of our country to sit again on the United Nations Security Council as a nonpermanent member, and act as the vice president of the 80th U.N. General Assembly.

June 30, 1960, is the historic date upon which the Congolese people, in their linguistic and cultural plurality and their unity, won the inalienable right to self-determination. Today, we honor this fight, but also the path traveled since then, with courage and pride, with resilience, and with the unwavering will to build a better future for our future generations.

This address is also, for me, an opportunity to honor a precious friendship — one that has united the DRC and Japan for more than six decades.

Established in 1961, shortly after our independence, our diplomatic relations have continued to grow in a spirit of mutual respect, peaceful cooperation and trust. Japan has always been a loyal partner, committed to the Congolese people in times of stability, as well as in times of challenge, and today in a surge of hope for a better and prosperous tomorrow.

Bilateral cooperation between the DRC

and Japan is manifested in a tangible way through the many projects implemented, in particular through the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Some of JICA's major contributions include the rehabilitation of strategic infrastructure, such as the Port of Matadi, facilitating trade, supporting the national economy and constantly supporting the health sector, particularly during Ebola outbreaks and through maternal and child health programs.

Other contributions include efforts to promote access to drinking water, sanitation and education, and the strengthening of our professional capacities both in the National Institutes of Vocational Preparation and in the National Police for the protection of civilians.

Japan has also played an important role in peacebuilding, both through its support to U.N. peacekeeping operations and through direct support to vulnerable populations in conflict-affected areas.

Our countries share a common ambition, that of sustainable, equitable and responsible development.

Japan is supporting the DRC in training its human resources, strengthening its technical capacities and promoting innovation, particularly in the fields of agriculture, renewable energy and local processing.

We see this cooperation as essential to accelerate the diversification of our economy and strengthen our country's sovereignty over its strategic resources, both mining and natural, in our subsoil and on the surface.

Beyond the figures and the agreements, the relationship between our countries is also nourished by long-standing cultural and people-to-people ties.

Young Congolese benefit from Japanese scholarships, and Japanese volunteers participate in social and educational projects in our country. Artists, researchers, engineers and students weave a relationship of mutual

A container ship navigates the Congo River as it flows past Matadi, the main seaport of the DRC.

GETTY IMAGES



respect and curiosity on a daily basis.

These exchanges make our peoples direct actors in the Congolese-Japanese friendship. They are, in truth, the most sincere ambassadors of our shared values.

As the world faces major global challenges — climate change, food insecurity and geopolitical instability — the DRC and Japan have a responsibility and an opportunity to work together to promote peace, justice and shared prosperity.

We believe that the future will be written through strong, respectful and balanced partnerships, such as the one that unites our two nations.

On this 65th anniversary of our independence, I would like to reaffirm the gratitude of the Congolese people to the government and people of Japan for their faithful commitment to our side.

I express the hope that the friendship between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Japan will continue to flourish, in the interest of our peoples and in the service of a more united world.

Long live the Democratic Republic of Congo!

Long live the friendship between the DRC and Japan!

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



DRC Minister of Sport and Leisure Didier Budimbu (second from left) visits with Sports Minister Toshiko Abe (right) on Jan. 22 in Tokyo.

SERGE MAMBU

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

Fulfilling Moments,
Enriching Life **JT**

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>

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

TOYOTA TSUSHO
WITH AFRICA FOR AFRICA

cfao

www.toyota-tsusho.com