

# Nigeria Independence Day Special

## Growth and progress on all fronts

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As Nigeria marks her 65th Independence Anniversary, we stand at a pivotal moment in our national journey, a time to celebrate the strides we have made as a people and to reaffirm our

collective resolve to build a stronger and more prosperous nation.

Nigeria and Japan have shared a long and meaningful relationship. Since the establishment of official ties on Oct. 1, 1960, relations have continued to grow, marked by increased trade, development cooperation and deeper people-to-people connections.

I would like to extend warm congratulations to President and Commander-in-Chief Bola Tinubu and to the people of Nigeria. Since assuming office in May 2023, the president has led the country with a reform-

driven agenda aimed at repositioning Nigeria on the path of sustainable growth and development. His administration has undertaken bold policy measures to stabilize the economy, restore investor confidence and create opportunities for all Nigerians.

Notable progress has been recorded in several key areas. In the economic sphere, the removal of fuel subsidies and the unification of the foreign exchange system, though initially challenging, have laid the foundation for long-term stability and competitiveness, unlocking Nigeria's potential as Africa's largest economy. The government continues to prioritize renewal, with projects in power, transport and digital technology serving as critical drivers of growth.

In agriculture and food security, emphasis on mechanization and modern farming practices is helping to reduce dependence on food imports and strengthen self-reliance.

On the global stage, Nigeria has reinforced its leadership role across Africa and beyond, deepening partnerships with Japan, Brazil and India while playing a central role in advancing continental integration through the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Furthermore, fiscal and tax reforms introduced by the government are beginning to yield results, with increased revenue generation at the sub-national level, which is closer to the people. These achievements, realized despite a challenging global environment of rising tariffs and deglobalization, underscore the resilience of the Nigerian people and the government's commitment to charting a course toward national renewal.

Yet, Independence Day is not only a moment to reflect on past progress; it is also a call to action. The task of nation building remains a shared responsibility. At home and abroad, Nigerians must continue to harness their talents, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit for the collective good.

With respect to our relations with Japan, it is worth noting that the recently concluded ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development witnessed representation at the highest political level, with our president in attendance. This further reflects the growing strength of our relations and opportunities for deeper collaboration. To our vibrant diaspora, your contributions remain indispensable. Through remittances,



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investments, advocacy and knowledge transfer, you are shaping Nigeria's image and future in profound ways. This Independence Day, I urge you to join in the celebrations — not merely as observers, but as active partners in the Nigerian project.

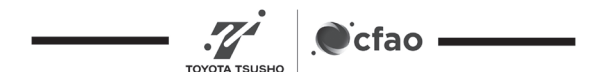
As we celebrate on Oct. 1, let us do so with renewed hope. Let us celebrate our diversity as strength, our challenges as opportunities, and our progress as proof of what we can achieve together. Nigeria's story is still being written, and every Nigerian, at home or abroad, holds a pen in that narrative. The future is ours to create. Happy Independence Day, Nigeria!

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

***Congratulations***  
***to the People of***  
***the Federal Republic of Nigeria***  
***on the Anniversary of***  
***Their Independence***

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