
Lesotho Independence Day Special

Long-standing friendly ties continue to grow

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AMBASSADOR OF LESOTHO



On behalf of the government, the people of Lesotho and myself, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to the people and the government of Japan on the occasion of Lesotho's Independence

Day, celebrated annually on Oct. 4.

Mountainous Lesotho is fondly known as “The Kingdom in the Sky” due to its breathtaking elevation of 1,400 meters, which gives it the unique distinction of having the highest low point of any country in the world. Moreover, it is one of only three countries landlocked by just one other country.

Lesotho, then known as Basutoland, was unified in the early 1800s by King

Moshoeshoe I. It was a British protectorate until regaining independence in 1966.

Diplomatically, Lesotho and Japan have enjoyed long-standing bilateral relations that continue to grow stronger with time.

This year, we were deeply honored to see Their Majesties King Letsie III and Queen Masenate Mohato Seeiso visit Japan for Lesotho's National Day and business forum at the Osaka Expo.

Furthermore, a symposium was held in Tokyo to call for support for the His Majesty King Letsie III Just Energy Transition Fund.

We were also privileged to welcome the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho Sam Matekane, along with three other ministers, who participated in the ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development.

I am confident that the relations between our countries will continue to prosper and flourish for the mutual benefit of our peoples. During my tenure, I

remain committed to further strengthening this partnership.

I have been deeply impressed by the qualities of the Japanese people, such as humility, kindness, humanity, politeness, respect and friendliness — traits that are truly admirable and deserving of praise.

Lastly, allow me to share how we celebrate Lesotho's Independence Day. The day is a national holiday marked by flag-raising ceremonies, official speeches, colorful parades and processions, cultural performances and other festive activities. The official reception is held in the capital Maseru, presided over by the king in the presence of the prime minister and senior government dignitaries.

Khotso! Pula! Nala! (Peace! Rain! Prosperity!) to you all.

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