

# Kenya National Day Special

## Enduring relations built on long-standing ties

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AMBASSADOR OF KENYA



On Dec. 12, Kenya celebrates its 62nd Jamhuri Day anniversary. Jamhuri is the Swahili word for republic and the name aptly marks the auspicious day when Kenya became a republic.

On this day Kenya honors its heroes, past and present, who have offered selfless service toward the realization of the nation's ideals.

Over the course of six decades, Kenya has attained remarkable levels of development, and Japan has remained a steadfast, long-standing and dependable partner throughout. The depth of our ties is evident in the diverse sectors of collaboration between our countries — ranging from education, infrastructure and energy to health, agriculture, capacity building, the

environment and water, as well as the contributions of the Japanese private sector to the Kenyan economy and Kenya's national development.

Indeed, Tokyo — in the Land of the Rising Sun — and Nairobi — the Green City in the Sun — are connected through Japan-funded infrastructure development. Japanese technology and skill transfers have enabled innovation, and meaningful collaborations are underway toward the achievement of global sustainability goals.

This year has been an eventful year for Kenya-Japan relations. It started off with the inaugural session of the Kenya-Japan Policy Dialogue convened in Nairobi in January. The meeting addressed mechanisms to expand Kenya-Japan cooperation, including the increasingly crucial role of Japan's private sector in the ties between our countries.

From April to October the world's attention was drawn to Japan during the six months that the Osaka Expo ran. The Kenyan flag flew proudly among those of over 160 participating countries, as Kenya

stood among equals and demonstrated the nation's commitment to global collaboration in trade, investment, climate action and cultural exchange, positioning it as a leading voice in shaping a sustainable and equitable future. The Kenya Pavilion attracted 2,270,581 visitors, representing nearly 10% of all Expo 2025 attendees.

The success of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process is exhibited through Japan's unwavering commitment to partner with Africa toward the development of the continent and the realization of Africa's potential.

The ninth TICAD summit, held from Aug. 20 to 22 under the theme "Co-create innovative solutions with Africa," drew the participation of President of the Republic of Kenya H.E. William Ruto, among many other heads of state. This visit by Kenya's president followed an official visit to Japan in February 2024 and denotes the highest regard between our nations.

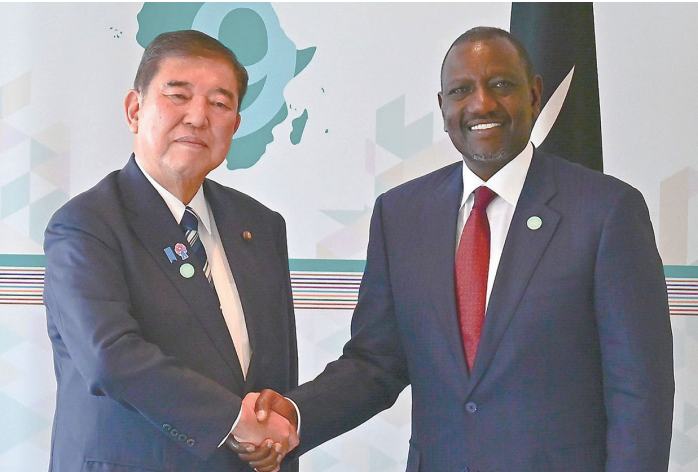
For Kenya, the TICAD process remains an invaluable framework that has increased the impetus for Kenya-Japan relations. Kenya hosted TICAD VI, the first held in Africa, which noted the alignment of the African Union's Agenda 2063 initiatives and the TICAD process objectives. In this regard, Kenya welcomes Japan's support for the achievement of mutually beneficial outcomes for Japan and Africa.

It is the highest honor for a country's national anthem to be played during international competitions. It was therefore a source of great pride when the Kenyan national anthem played several times in Tokyo during the World Athletics Championships in September and the Deaflympics in November. In both events Kenyan athletes were celebrated for their outstanding performances. We continue to honor these heroes who elevate Kenya's global standing.

As the year draws to a close, we look forward to continued engagement with Japan in pursuit of our common bilateral goals and in addressing emerging issues.

We take this opportunity to wish all Kenyans in Japan a happy Jamhuri Day.

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



Kenyan President William Ruto meets with then-Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on Aug. 20 during the ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development.  
EMBASSY OF KENYA



A group of schoolchildren join in the Kenya National Day of Honour celebrations at the Osaka Expo on June 24. KENYA EXPORTS PROMOTION AND BRANDING AGENCY

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