

# South Africa National Day Special

## Growing partnership marked by progress on all fronts

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CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF SOUTH AFRICA



Each year on Freedom Day, South Africans commemorate the historic elections of April 27, 1994 — an inflection point that ushered in a democratic era under President Nelson Mandela.

More than three decades later, the occasion remains a moment to reflect on our country's progress, both domestically and internationally.

An important milestone this year is South Africa's commemoration of the 30th anniversary of its constitution, widely regarded as one of the most progressive in the world, that continues to shape the values and principles underpinning our democratic order.

Domestically, South Africa has built strong democratic institutions, while the entrenchment of human rights, an independent judiciary and a vibrant civil society have underpinned political stability. Access to housing, electricity, water, health and education has expanded significantly.

South Africa has developed into one of Africa's most diversified economies. Key sectors such as mining, manufacturing, finance and renewable energy continue to attract investment, positioning the country as a gateway to the continent.

Internationally, South Africa is an influential voice in global governance. As a member of the Group of 20 leading and developing nations, BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and the United Nations, we advocate multilateralism, equity, a rules-based international order and reform of global institutions.

South Africa's successful G20 presidency in 2025, under the theme "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability," outlined our

vision for a more inclusive, peaceful and equitable global order, and marked the first time that an African nation led the forum. South Africa will continue to engage constructively with like-minded partners and within international platforms to advance this vision.

South Africa holds the chairmanship of the Southern African Development Community for the next two years, promoting peace, strengthening regional integration and advancing economic development across the SADC. We concurrently serve

on the African Union Peace and Security Council, collaborating with other member states to support peace and stability across the continent. South Africa has also been instrumental in promoting the African Continental Free Trade Area, aimed at boosting intra-African trade and economic growth.

The strategic relationship between South Africa and Japan is long-standing, built on strong diplomatic, economic and people-to-people ties. The 116-year relationship was further strengthened through visits to Japan by Deputy President Paul Mashatile

in March 2025 and President Cyril Ramaphosa in August 2025 to attend the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, as well as Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's visit to South Africa last November to participate in the G20 summit.

In 2010, relations between our countries were upgraded to a strategic cooperation partnership that spans a wide range of sectors. These include trade and investment, science and technology, education, skills development, student exchanges, agriculture, tourism, sport and collabora-

tive research initiatives.

Japan is one of our major investment partners — particularly in the automotive, manufacturing and energy sectors — with more than 250 companies in South Africa sustaining over 200,000 local jobs.

Beyond economics, our nations have deepened cooperation in science and technology, education, cultural exchange and sporting collaborations — especially in rugby and cricket.

South Africa remains committed to strengthening its relationship with Japan.



The Nelson Mandela Bridge is illuminated against the Johannesburg skyline. SA TOURISM

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

Congratulations  
on the Anniversary of  
the Freedom Day of  
the Republic of South Africa

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Celebrating  
the anniversary of  
Freedom Day:  
27<sup>th</sup> April

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

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