
Liberia Independence Day Special

Liberty, freedom and enduring partnership

EDWARD WADE APPLETON JR.
AMBASSADOR OF LIBERIA



On behalf of His Excellency President of the Republic of Liberia Joseph Nyuma Boakai Sr., the government, the people and the Liberian community in Japan, I extend warm greetings as

we celebrate the 179th independence anniversary of Liberia.

Liberty is not merely a historical aspiration — it is a constitutional promise enshrined in the Liberian Constitution, affirming that liberty is the birthright of all people.

For Japan, liberty has been shaped through resilience, discipline and the enduring testimony of the hibakusha, whose voices remind the world that peace

is the highest expression of freedom.

Liberia has always believed that even a small nation can stand tall for liberty. As one of the original signatories of the United Nations Charter, Liberia championed the liberation of African nations still under colonial rule, standing as a shining city of liberty on the African hill. Today, Liberia continues this legacy as a newly elected nonpermanent member of the U.N. Security Council, committed to promoting a more peaceful and just world.

Japan has been a true friend to Liberia, supporting maternal and child health programs, the LibRice initiative, the Japan Freeway and major investments in energy, fisheries, infrastructure and human capacity development, including extension of educational opportunities.

Under the president's leadership, the ARREST Agenda prioritizes agriculture, roads, rule of law, education, sanitation and tourism, with youth empowerment at its core. Liberia's participation in the ninth

Tokyo International Conference on African Development strengthened investment, innovation and human capital development. We also celebrated the 2025 World Expo in Osaka and look forward to the 2027 Green Expo in Yokohama.

Tonight, I reaffirm that Liberia is open for business and invite Japanese investors to explore opportunities in minerals, agriculture, energy, tourism and digital innovation. Liberia's maritime program remains one of the world's most respected.

As we celebrate 179 years of independence, we honor liberty, freedom, peace and the long-standing partnership between Liberia and Japan.

Happy Independence Day — long live Liberia, the glorious land of liberty.

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