Zambia Independence Day Special

Stronger economy through 'Grow Zambia'

TOBIAS MULIMBIKA
AMBASSADOR OF ZAMBIA



As Zambia marks its 62nd independence anniversary, the country is looking toward a new chapter in its relationship with Japan.

Zambia is positioning itself as an attractive investment destination. The government is pursuing its "Grow Zambia" agenda, which seeks to accelerate economic growth, increase productivity, attract investment and create jobs.

As ambassador, this anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on Zambia's journey and consider how international partnerships can contribute to further development. We have very high prospects.

This comes at an important moment in bilateral relations. After decades of cooperation in development, education, health, agriculture, infrastructure and humanitarian assistance, Zambia aims to build a stronger economic partnership.

During President Hakainde Hichilema's working visit to Japan in February 2025, the Japan-Zambia investment agreement was signed. Entering into force on July 30, it provides an investment promotion and protection framework.

For Zambia, it comes with expectations that greater investor confidence will translate into investment.

We hope to see increased confidence by the Japanese private sector lead to actual investment in various areas, focusing on value chains and enhancing productivity, as well as increased partnerships with Zambian companies.

Japan has been an important social partner, but Zambia wants to see more commercial partnerships, investment and jobs.



President of Zambia H.E Hakainde Hichilema

The focus now is not just about meetings, but what number of lead investments are coming from Japan and how many are actually coming into Zambia to invest.

That emphasis on results is shaping economic engagement with Japan.

Among the most promising areas is mining and critical minerals. Zambia is known for copper and has potential to become an important partner in global mineral supply chains. For Japanese companies, this presents opportunities in exploration and responsible mining, processing, value addition and technology.

Agriculture is another area for partnership. Japan could help address various challenges through climate-smart agriculture, irrigation, agricultural machinery, seed technology, digital systems, post-harvest management and food processing.

The objective is not only greater resilience, but higher productivity, food security and the development of agricultural value chains that can create jobs and investment opportunities.



Hichilema meets with His Majesty Emperor Naruhito in February 2025. EMBASSY OF ZAMBIA

Energy and infrastructure are equally important. The country is targeting 10,000 megawatts of power generation capacity, while its strategic location offers access to major regional trade routes, including the Nacala, Beira and Lobito corridors.

The Nacala Corridor illustrates the potential of such cooperation. Linking Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique to the Indian Ocean, it is an important trade route and Japan has supported infrastructure development along it.

Zambia is also looking to strengthen its own position through the proposed Chipata Logistics Centre — a dry port that will facilitate the movement and handling of goods.

Tourism is another area with significant potential. Zambia is targeting 5 million international tourist arrivals and sees Japan as an important market.

A Japan-Zambia Policy Dialogue is expected to provide another opportunity to deepen cooperation across economic and investment matters, development cooperation, diplomacy and multilateral issues.

The opportunity is clear — Japan brings technology, capital, development expertise and access to global networks, while Zambia offers opportunities in critical minerals, agriculture, energy, infrastructure, tourism and regional supply chains.

Japan-Zambia ties provide a foundation of trust, the investment agreement provides a stronger legal framework and Zambia's economic potential provides the opportunity.

For Zambia, the next chapter is not simply building on the past, but forging productive partnerships that can deliver sustainable prosperity for the next generation.

Working for better understanding among people for world peace

KATSUMI YAMAGUCHI
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-ZAMBIA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION; CHAIRMAN, ECC GROUP



I would like to express my heartful congratulations on the 62nd anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Zambia. It is a great honor to join the people of Zambia in celebrating Independence Day each year.

On behalf of the Japan-Zambia Friendship Association, students and staff from the ECC Group and people of Japan, I am sincerely pleased to extend our warmest congratulations to President Hakainde Hichilema, as well as our love and friendship to all the people of the peace-loving country of Zambia.

I hope through working together to promote bilateral friendship and mutual understanding, ties between the Republic of Zambia and Japan will continue to grow as outlined in the founding philosophy of the ECC Foreign Language Institute, the charter body of the fellowship: "It is our goal, through the teaching of foreign languages, to contribute to the development of our students' capabilities, international awareness and leadership qualities. In this way, we hope to promote more interaction and understanding among the peoples of the world, thus helping to contribute to world peace."

It is the greatest pleasure for our association to attempt to serve the needs of the people of Zambia, even in our small way. The association will continue to make efforts in the hopes of strengthening the ties of friendship between our nations and throughout the world.

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



South Luangwa National Park is home to many animals, including leopards.
MASARU YAMAGUCHI

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on the Anniversary of
Their Independence



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Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Zambia
on Their Independence Day

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