

# Malawi independence day

## Warm Heart of Africa welcomes investment in various sectors

Reuben Ngwenya  
AMBASSADOR OF MALAWI

Today is the 47th anniversary of the independence of Malawi, our beautiful country in the southern part of Africa. It is therefore the best time to share our destination with friends and development partners. First, allow me on behalf of the government and people of Malawi to present my respectful greetings and best wishes to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and for the continued prosperity and happiness of the people of Japan as they recover from the triple tragedies that occurred on March 11.



May I also take this opportunity to thank the government and people of Japan for the role they have played in the development of Malawi since diplomatic relations between Japan and Malawi were established in 1964. Japan continues to be a very reliable development partner to Malawi, through its programs such as official development assistance (ODA); the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); One Village, One Product (OVOP); and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD). Malawi has benefited a lot in infrastructure development such

as the construction of schools and roads, and in technical assistance, especially capacity building.

Malawi is proud to be hosting the largest contingent of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) since the program started in the mid-1970s. To show our appreciation and in recognition of their contribution toward the development of our country, the Malawi government has awarded these selfless men and women with certificates, which will be presented to them in the near future.

On a very positive note, since H.E. President Bingu wa Mutharika took over the mantle of leadership of the country, the Malawi economy has continued to register unprecedented economic growth rates, at an average of 7.5 percent for three consecutive years. Due to good policies that have been adopted, Malawi has turned itself from a perennial food deficit nation that needed imports every year to a hunger-free nation that now has become a breadbasket and has been exporting its surplus for the past six years.

Malawi is also on the right course to achieving the U.N. Millennium Development goals in the health sector through a reduction in child mortality and combating communicable diseases and malaria.

The government also recognizes the importance of education and realizes that children are the future leaders of tomorrow.



H.E. President of Malawi  
Bingu wa Mutharika

In this regard, the government is constructing more schools including the recent Malawi University of Science and Technology. Five other new universities are lined up for construction to diversify areas of science and to increase student intake. Currently, the Malawi government is seeking partners for this endeavor in the fields of science as the curricula in these universities will include water resources, marine biology, mineral research and applied engineering, among others.

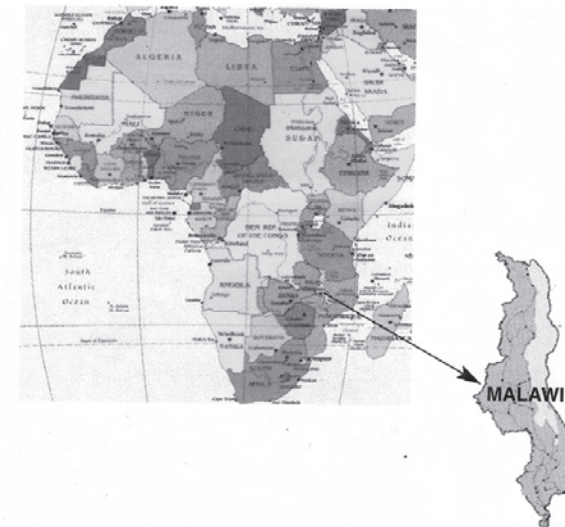
The government also realizes that a well-developed transport network system is an indispensable condition for enhancing socioeconomic growth and development, hence its emphasis on the transport sector. The government of Malawi at present is increasing access to major trading areas to improve market

access for the majority of farmers who reside in rural areas. Most roads are being upgraded to cope with the demands of heavy traffic, such as paving with asphalt and widening some of the major highways to improve service and the delivery of goods.

Malawi is also building an inland port and a transport system called the Shire-Zambezi Waterway to reduce transportation and the cost of doing business by 60 percent. This is going to serve other countries in the region including Zambia, Zimbabwe and the countries situated in Central Africa.

With the unprecedented growth the country is experiencing, it has placed a huge demand for energy both at the industrial and the household level. The government has embarked on the rehabilitation of the country's power generation plants and it also plans to build and commission new power generation plants at some selected sites. The government is also encouraging the use of renewable energy sources, particularly solar power and biodiesel.

The current average growth of about 7 percent of our economy is a clear sign that Malawi is an ideal place for individuals as the gross domestic product (GDP) grows. It also provides a potential market for different products and this presents an opportunity for investment that will present good profits. Mala-



Breathtaking: Located in southern Malawi, the massive Mount Mulanje takes up an area approximately 22 km by 26 km, with a maximum elevation of around 3,000 meters at its highest point, Sapitwa Peak. EMBASSY OF MALAWI

wi boasts a large number of skilled and abundant labor, a conflict-free country, a good climate, investor-retaining policies, tax holidays and many more incentives to smooth the setting up of business. Malawi also has easy access to world gateway points from Africa.

More opportunities are also available to invest in various sectors. The "green belt" initiative, which plans to irrigate vast amounts of land to create farms and encourage year-round production of different crops for export and domestic consumption, is a good example. In mining, some exploration has been done and many minerals have been discovered, including rare earths, uranium, niobium, gold, iron and coal, among many other precious stones. Opportunities are also there to invest in transportation, energy, tourism, education and health. For further information regarding opportunities in Malawi, you can contact the Malawi Embassy in Tokyo.

Malawi is proud to be commonly known as the Warm

Heart of Africa and remains one of the most beautiful destinations in Africa. Tourist attractions include the majestic scenery; crystal-clear freshwater lake and golden beaches of Lake Malawi; Mount Mulanje; historical sites; national parks;

game reserves; rivers and forests. Malawi and its people, including their culture of humbleness and ever-smiling lifestyle, will leave one with a lasting impression for life and with a wish to visit again numerous times.

Last but not least, I wish to thank Toyota Tsusho Corp., Japan Tobacco Inc. and the Dai Nippon Construction Co. for supporting our anniversary message in The Japan Times. We will cherish you all forever.

**Congratulations**  
to the People of the Republic of Malawi  
on the 47th Anniversary of Their Independence

**DNC.**

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Vast: Lake Malawi is the southernmost lake in the Great Rift Valley system of East Africa, the third largest in Africa and the eighth largest in the world. Many species of fish inhabit the lake, providing nearby residents with a major food source. EMBASSY OF MALAWI

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