

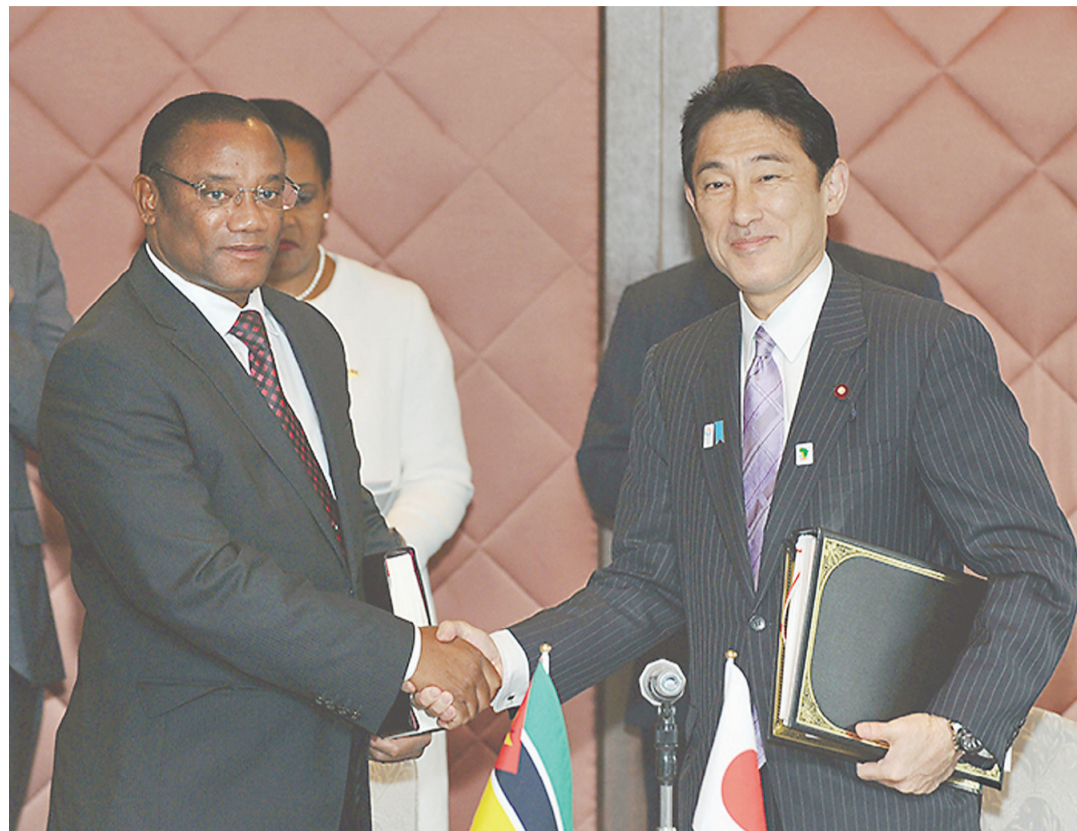
Mozambique national day

Implementing plans to fully realize nation's potential

Belmiro José Malate,
AMBASSADOR OF MOZAMBIQUE

Today we are celebrating one more anniversary of our independence, the 38th. On this important and historic day I would like, on behalf of the government of Mozambique and that of my own, to congratulate all the Mozambican community residing in Japan and wish them happy commemorations. Allow me to also use this occasion to extend to His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito and Her Imperial Majesty Empress Michiko best wishes of good health and happiness. My greetings are equally extended to the Japanese government and the people and to all the friends of Mozambique who are joining us today in marking this auspicious date.

This year's celebration is an especial one because it coincides with the commemoration of the golden jubilee of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), today's African Union (AU), at which all African leaders re-stated their desire to continue to work together to foster the noble ideals of the fore-founders of the organization and their commitment to build a peaceful and integrated continent. The OAU Liberation Committee, which was established to support the process toward independence of many African countries, supported Frelimo in its struggle for the emancipation of Mozambique, which was under the colonial rule of Portugal. In this context it is only proper that we do not only celebrate the fifth anniversary of the organization but also pay a special homage to all the visionary Pan-Africanists who, one way or another significantly contributed to the total liberation of the African continent.



Partnership: Right, Mozambique's President Armando Guebuza and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe hold a summit meeting on May 31 in Yokohama on the sidelines of the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V). Above, Mozambique's Minister of Planning and Development Aiuba Cuereia and Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida sign the Agreement between Japan and the Republic of Mozambique on the Reciprocal Liberalization, Promotion and Protection of Investment, in Yokohama on June 1, when TICAD V commenced. CABINET PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN

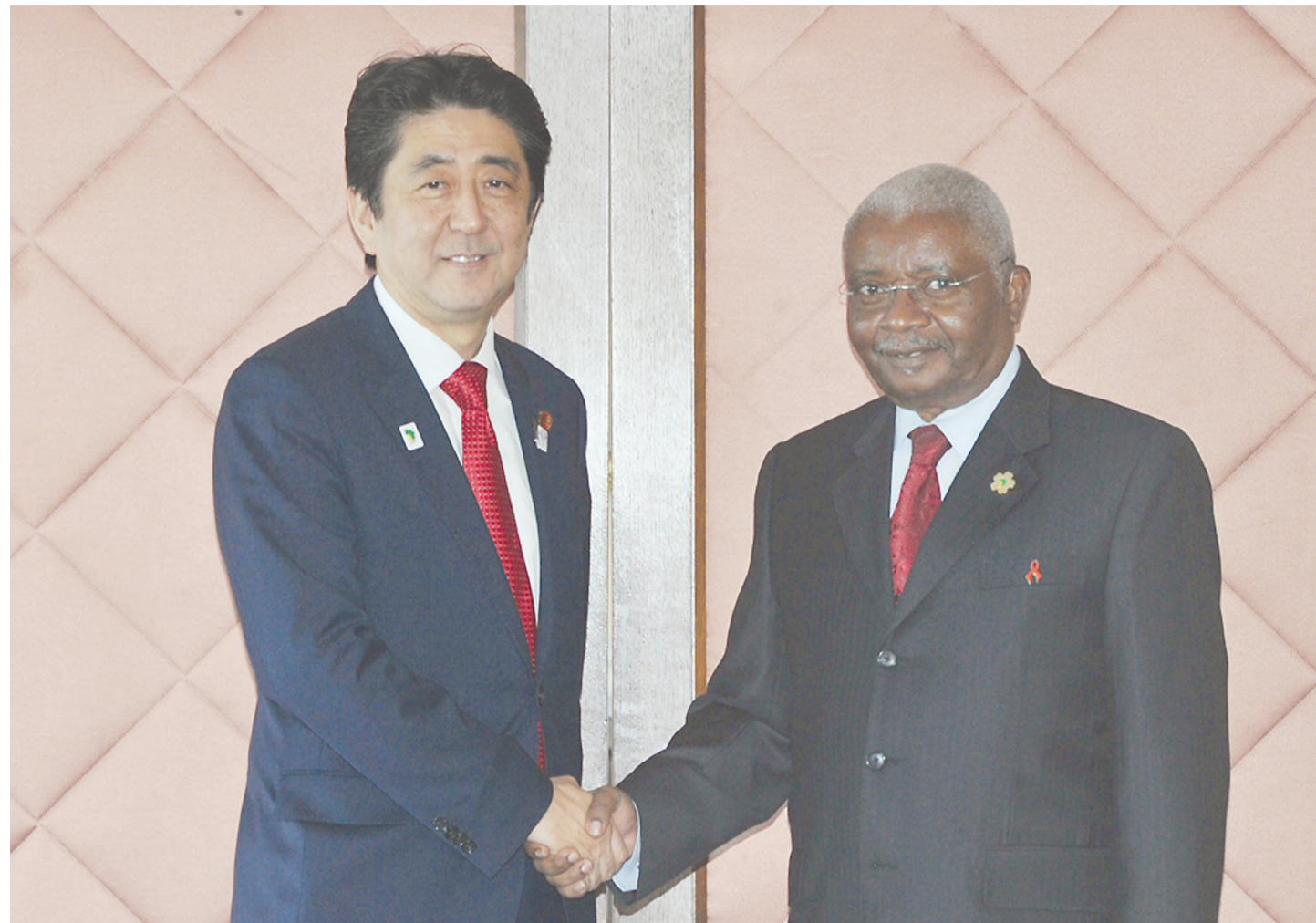
I am pleased to share that Mozambique has continued to enjoy peace and stability. Twenty-one years have passed since the signing of the Rome Agreement that ended the civil war in 1992. We can pride ourselves for having been able to set aside our differences, embrace the spirit of reconciliation and the noble values of national unity to build a prosperous country. Democracy is gaining strength and is allowing more Mozambicans to participate in the national agenda of fighting against poverty. In the efforts to consolidate democracy the parliament approved a new electoral law that

will serve as the basis for the municipal and general elections. The parliament also approved the creation of an additional 10 new municipalities, bringing the total to 53. The creation of new municipalities is part of the decentralization strategy that the government is gradually implementing throughout the country, intended to allow more citizens to participate in the democratic process at a local level. For the fourth time Mozambique will hold municipal elections in November 2013, confirming once again our determination to ensure the participation of the citizens in the local development

and to exercise the freedom of electing and being elected.

Recent performance

Mozambique continues to register a satisfactory social and economic performance, despite the fact that the country was adversely affected by the financial crisis that affected the world and the natural disasters that devastated the central part of the country. The 2012 Social and Economic Program of Mozambique (PES) indicates that the country has accrued positive results in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), though recog-



nizing that they will not be fully achieved by 2015. This means that the government needs to continue to double its efforts in order to achieve the MDGs by 2015. In this regard we welcome the reassurance of the government of Japan to, under TICAD V, continue to provide support to Mozambique and other African countries in attaining the MDGs, but also to collaborate in the development of a new framework that will help developing countries to overcome poverty post-2015.

The country continues to experience positive growth rates at an average of more than 7 percent, a trend that the country has maintained since 1996. This developments posts Mozambique among the 10 fastest growing countries in the world; an important achievement if we also consider that the country is cited as the successful example of a nation that achieved peace and reconciliation that produced stability, that in turn is being translated into social and economic development. The macroeconomic reforms that the government is implementing and the positive environment for conducting business in the country have continuously attracted investment. This contributes to making resources available for the development of natural resources and the creation of employment for the young generation. The discovery of enormous reserves of coal in the Tete Province, central part of Mozambique, and of natural gas in the Rovuma basin, located in the northern Mozambique, have generated an additional interest from investors who operate in these areas. Japanese companies have been very active in seizing opportunities to invest in Mozambique. In fact, corporations like Mitsubishi, Mitsui, Nippon Steel



People-to-people: An expert from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) teaches at a health training institute in Mozambique. JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY

and Sumitomo Metal, Impex, Hitachi and Sojitz are already doing business in Mozambique. It is our belief that the recently signed Agreement between Japan and Mozambique on the Reciprocal Liberalization, Promotion and Protection of Investment will contribute to encourage more Japanese to establish themselves in Mozambique.

The development of the said resources will, on the one side, increase the chances of Mozambique generating additional resources that will help in the fight against poverty. But on the other side, it poses a number of challenges that need to be overcome so that the potential they represent can be fully realized.

Natural resources

In his 2012 State of the Nation Speech, President Armando Guebuza recognized that the country is endowed with a diversity of natural resources, but he warned that the existence of natural resources is not in itself synonymous with development. It does not mean being rich. It is a promise of wealth still to be realized. He further said that the transformation of natural resources into wealth can be a long process. On the other side the process of transformation of the natural resources into wealth presented the country with new challenges which need to be urgently addressed. The challenges have to do with the need to develop infrastructure, provide the projects with skilled manpower, wealth redistribution, among others. To respond to these chal-

lenges the government has put together a strategy that has seven pillars, of which I will elaborate on the following.

The first one has to do with the need to put at the disposal of these projects the necessary infrastructures to secure the production, transportation and export of the said mineral resources. For this the government has designed a plan of action to increase the capacity to transport coal from the current 6.5 million tons a year to 50 million tons a year to 25 million tons a year to 25 million by 2016. A new line, linking Moatize to the port of Nacala, with the capacity to handle 30 million tons per

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Prosperity through cooperation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

year is already under construction, and will be operational in 2015. Two additional lines linking Moatize to Mecuzi, and another that links the Sena line in the Mutarara District to the Nacala line in the Malema District. Both will have an initial capacity of 25 million tons per year.

The second challenge has to do with the provision of skilled people to meet the demands of labor of the emerging industries in the area of natural resources. The government has adopted a strategy for the training and capacitating of human resources between 2010 and 2024. In this regard public and private universities are revising their curricula to adhere to the adopted strategy. New professional and technical training institutes are being built in many parts of the country, particularly in the areas where the natural and mineral resources are being explored. It is again part of the strategy of the government to encourage the participation of the productive sector in this exercise. Companies are therefore encouraged to finance the process of training and capacitating, including through partnerships with training institutions.

The redistribution of the wealth is another challenge that the recently discovered natural resources imposes upon us. The vision of the government sees these could be achieved in three ways. The first is that the many projects that are being implemented to develop natural resources generate employment. The second is through the collection of taxes and in this regard it is also important that the country eliminates the dependence from foreign resources. In 2004 the level of dependence was 48 percent. It is hoped that



Resort: A dhow vessel sails by the Medjumbe private island in the Quirimbas Archipelago in the Indian Ocean off Mozambique.
EMBASSY OF MOZAMBIQUE

in 2012 the participation of local resources will be 61 percent and in 2013 67 percent. The third is through the participation of public companies in the process of development and exploration of the natural resources. It is also the vision of the government that more local companies should be involved in the provision of goods and services to major projects.

Cooperation with Japan

The relations of cooperation between our two countries have been consolidating, expanding and improving in terms of quality. It is important to acknowledge that our cooperation is inspired in our agreement to find the best ways to promote the well-being of our respective peoples, based on the principles of mutual benefit, mutual respect

and ownership. It is also based on our belief that development is the right of every human being, wherever he is in this vast planet. Sharing the positive experiences, the ones that contribute to take us a step forward is a natural process in our endless endeavor to promote the well-being and prosperity of our respective peoples.

Today we can pride ourselves for having achieved high levels of understanding that have allowed cooperation to flourish. In fact, political dialogue has been a permanent feature of this relationship where we have exchanged high-level delegations that have allowed for the exchange of ideas on how to have a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities. In this context the minister of transport and communications

visited Japan in February to exchange views on how Japan can further support in the development of infrastructures particularly to facilitate the transport of coal from Moatize, in Tete Province, to the Port of Nacala. The minister of agriculture came to Tokyo to participate in the seminar that discussed financing mechanisms for ProSavana and the minister of mineral resources was the keynote speaker at the J Summit, an occasion where many African countries discussed with the Japanese government and corporations.

Likewise, the parliamentary vice minister for foreign affairs visited Maputo where he held meetings with his counterparts to review the status of cooperation, and the president of JICA visited Nampula to take stock of rehabilitation and extension of

the Port of Nacala, financed by the government of Japan, and the Nacala Corridor where he was informed about the work being done regarding ProSavana.

It is also important to register the fact that President Guebuza participated in the TICAD V, which took place in early June this year in Yokohama. This was an important demonstration of the importance that our government attaches to our cooperation with Japan in the context of TICAD. On that occasion President Guebuza held important consultations with Prime Minister Abe and other government authorities of Japan and he also had a constructive dialogue with leadership of Japanese corporations that have interests in Mozambique.

Cooperation between Mozambique and Japan, which is

conducted through ODA, technical cooperation and yen soft loans, focuses on the provision of social and economic infrastructures, education and health, development of human resources, capacity building, mitigation of the effects of climate change, improvement of food security, water and sanitation, science and technology and the promotion of business cooperation.

One of the important programs we are jointly implementing in the context of triangular cooperation (Mozambique, Japan and Brazil) is ProSavana, a program designed to transform the subsistence producers into producers of the market through the transfer of agro-technologies, increase income of the small and medium-size farmers, and to attain self-sufficiency in food production and export the surplus. ProSavana is part of the PEDSA (Strategic Plan for Agricultural Sector Development), designed to (i) accelerate the production of staple foods, (ii) increase income, (iii) ensure access and secure land tenure and natural resources, (iv) provision of services considering the value chain, (v) promote development of zones with high agricultural potential and (vi) contribute to the balance of payments. Like ProSavana, this strategy is also being implemented in six other corridors.

The government of Mozambique is satisfied with the smooth progress of ProSavana, particularly the fact that the Master Plan will be concluded later this year and it is hoped that full implementation of the program will start next year. As part of the preparation of the implementation of the program the government concluded the mapping of the covered area and has started the distribution of title deeds to all farmers, to ensure a better management of agricultural land use.

Finally, I would like to thank all the sponsors who made it possible for the publication of this message.

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