

## Zambia independence day

## Political stability brings sustained growth, prosperity

Ng'ona Mwelwa Chibesakunda  
AMBASSADOR OF ZAMBIA

This historic day of Oct. 24, 2013, marks 49 years of Zambia's independence. On this occasion, I would like to convey on behalf of the government and people of the Republic of Zambia hearty greetings to the people and government of Japan. My greetings also go to all the friends of Zambia in Japan. I take this opportunity to congratulate the government and people of Japan as well as the city of Tokyo for the successful bid to host the 2020 Olympic Games. Zambia is looking forward to attending the prestigious event.

Zambia is located in the central southern part of Africa just below the equator. This location gives the country pleasant subtropical weather conditions for most of the year.

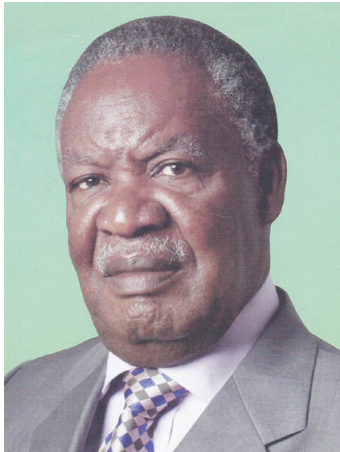
#### Political system

Zambia is renowned as a very peaceful country. Unlike many countries, Zambia has never experienced war or civil strife. The country has practiced a multi-party participatory political system since 1991 when the country instituted a change from the one-party system. Presidential and parliamentary elections are held every five years with each president allowed only two terms in office. Zambia has been governed by five presidents, elected through the ballot box with smooth transitions. This has been a marvel for many countries.

The current president of the Republic of Zambia is His Excellency President Michael Chilufya Sata.

#### Economy and trade

Zambia's economic fortunes have been impressive since the



President of the Republic of Zambia Michael Chilufya Sata

country introduced privatization and liberalized its economy. The government has periodically reviewed the country's governance and economic policies to align them with trends in international trade, and also make them attractive to local and foreign investment. Initiatives such as the Public Private Partnerships (PPP) are another way that the government is encouraging the private sector to participate in developing the country. In addition, the government has created a very conducive climate for foreign investors. The country is offering tax incentives to further develop an enabling investment and business environment for Zambia's sustainable economic development. Recently, Zambia's currency (kwacha) was rebased to among other things ease doing business.

In addition, the government is in the process of streamlining business registration, licensing and granting incentives in order to create a competitive business environment, and maximizing economic growth activities. Inflation has remained in single digits, recorded at 7.1 percent as of the end of August, while lending rates have fallen from an average of 20 percent in 2012 to 16.3 percent as of June.

In 2013, Zambia targeted

to attract foreign direct investment amounting to \$3 billion, as of June 2013, approved projects were above the target and amounted to \$3.56 billion.

The performance of the economy has continued to be positive, recording GDP growth of 6.8 percent and 7.3 percent in 2011 and 2012, respectively. This growth was driven by transport, communications, construction of various infrastructure, including hospitals, schools as well as roads. Other contributing sectors were agriculture, trade and manufacturing. To demonstrate this commitment, the government has increased investments in infrastructure development from 90 million kwacha in 2011 to 250 million in 2013.

#### Tourism

Zambia is home to one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the mighty Victoria Falls, known locally as Mosi-oa-tunya, which translates as the "smoke that thunders." The falls have UNESCO World Heritage status. The country has a variety of wildlife in large game parks with several species of wildlife and fauna, including Africa's big five: elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion and leopard. These features and animals have continued to attract large numbers of tourists from various regions of the world.

Zambia's tourism and arts sector continues to play a key role in the attraction of investment and creation of employment. The government continues to pay special attention to enhancing tourism product diversification and infrastructure development in the Northern circuit, lower Zambezi and the greater Kafue National Park, in order for them to contribute to economic development.

Zambia and Zimbabwe successfully co-hosted the 20th Session of the United Nations World Tourism Organization General Assembly (UNWTO) in August. The event attracted over 4,000



Nation's heart: The largest city and the center of commerce and government in Zambia, Lusaka is one of the fastest-developing cities in Southern Africa. ZAMBIATOURISM BOARD

delegates from across the globe. This has resulted in improved tourist visits to Zambia. The co-hosting of the event was made possible due to improved infrastructure and general outlook of our tourist capital Livingstone.

We thank everyone that contributed and supported the successful co-hosting of this event.

#### International affairs

Zambia actively participates in international affairs, conferences and other forums. The country subscribes to many multilateral organizations such as the United Nations and African Union. It is also a very active member of regional groupings such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

#### Relations with Japan

Zambia enjoys very good relations with many countries from all regions of the world. Zambia enjoys excellent relations with Japan dating back to October 1964, the year Zambia gained its independence while at the same time had a sports delegation participating at the Olympic Games hosted by Japan.

Relations with Japan have

been characterized by the two countries sharing standpoints on various matters at bilateral and multilateral levels, in the spirit of mutual benefits. Zambia is a beneficiary of Japanese technical and financial aid. Through TICAD, Japan has been funding various projects in Zambia, the latest of which is the construction of the Kazungula Bridge

between Zambia and Botswana. Japan has continued to assist Zambia by offering financial, technical support and infrastructure development in key sectors, including health, education and sports.

The growth in relations is evident from the high-level visits made by Zambia to Japan. President of the Republic of Zambia

H.E. Michael Chilufya Sata made an official working visit to Japan in October 2012 and held bilateral talks with the prime minister. Shortly after this visit, in 2013, H.E. President Sata again visited Japan to attend the TICAD V summit in Yokohama. During this visit, President Sata held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

These and several other high-level visits have continued to strengthen the relations between our two countries. A number of ministers from the government of the Republic of Zambia have visited Japan. This month Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Wylbur Simuusa visited Japan and held bilateral talks with his counterpart Hon. Fumio Kishida on the sidelines of the recent Minamata Convention on Mercury.

The visits are testimony to the importance that Zambia attaches to the long-standing relations with Japan. This also is confirmation of the Zambian government's desire to further strengthen the relations, and continue working with the people and government of Japan in areas of mutual interest.

In conclusion, I would like to convey warm greetings and wishes for continued prosperity from H.E. Michael Chilufya Sata, president of the Republic of Zambia, to the government and people of Japan.

### Building mutual understanding and forging enduring bonds of friendship

Katsumi Yamaguchi  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-ZAMBIA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

Congratulations on the 49th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Zambia. Since the founding of our Japan-Zambia Friendship Association in 1975, it has been a great honor to join the people of the Republic of Zambia in celebrating its Independence Day each year. On behalf of the members of our association, all of the students at the ECC Group of Schools and staff, and the people of Japan, we are sincerely pleased on this occasion to extend our warmest congratulations to President Michael Chilufya Sata, and our love and



friendship to all the people of the peaceful Republic of Zambia.

The establishment of our association is based on 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."

ECC's definition of a true internationally minded person is a friend who can feel the pain of another as their own, and who is willing to share that burden. We would like to make every possible effort to help create more internationally minded true friends, who contribute to the eternal peace of the entire world.

Our association has carried out various activities to promote mutual understanding and to form bonds of friendship between the people of Zambia and the people of Japan. These efforts are made possible through joint work with the ECC Group of Schools and the Japan-Zambia Friendship Association by holding the ECC Save-the-Earth Campaign every year to collect donations from ECC students and staff, as well as the general public.

It is indeed the greatest pleasure for our association to attempt to serve the needs of the people of Zambia, even in our small way. With heartfelt wishes for an ever-brighter future, the association and the ECC Group of Schools will continue to make efforts in the hopes of strengthening and increasing the ties of friendship between our two nations, and throughout the world.

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HOME OF THE VICTORIA FALLS  
Zambia-Let's Explore

**ZAMBIA**  
THE WILD SIDE  
Zambia-Let's Explore

Must-sees: Official posters advertise the attractions of Zambia to potential visitors from around the world. ZAMBIATOURISM BOARD

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**Congratulations to the people of the Republic of Zambia on the 49th Anniversary of Their Independence Day**

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