

Mozambique national day

Country sees economic growth and development

Belmiro Jose Malate
AMBASSADOR OF MOZAMBIQUE

This year marks the 39th Anniversary of Mozambique Independence. On this supreme and historic day I would like, on behalf of the government of Mozambique and myself, to congratulate all the Mozambican community residing in Japan and wish them happy commemorations. Allow me to also use this important 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 day.

During the year under review the government of Mozambique continued to focus her efforts to eradicate poverty and improve the standard of living of the population in an

atmosphere of peace, harmony and tranquility. The program that the government is currently implementing is based on five pillars, namely, the consolidation of national unity and democracy; the fight against poverty; the promotion of good governance; decentralization and combat against corruption; and the reinforcement of sovereignty and international cooperation. These have been instrumental in the success the country has been able to accrue so far.

Regarding the first pillar, it is worth noting that since the signing of the Rome Agreement that ended the civil war in 1992, the country has continuously enjoyed peace and stability. Programs designed to promote national unity and the culture of dialogue and tolerance have been at the heart of this process. The vision of the government of Mozambique in what regards peace includes also the political, economic, social and cultural dimensions, because peace is not just the absence of war. Plurality of ideas, diversity of the forms of participation and intervention in the society are becoming

common practice of our society, as well as the freedom of association and expression. In the context of consolidating democracy, it encouraging to register that on the 15th October Mozambique will hold her 5th Presidential and Legislative Elections. This is an important milestone because, once again, Mozambicans will have the opportunity to exercise the right to choose their president and their representatives at both provincial and national parliaments and also choose the electoral manifestos that meet their aspirations and expectations, which attests our strong commitment to foster and consolidate democracy. Last year the country witnessed for the fourth time the holding of municipal elections, confirming once again the determination to ensure the participation of the citizens in the local development and the implementation of the decentralization program.

Economic performance

As a result of reforms, notably legal, administrative and economic, Mozambique has experienced strong economic growth in recent years. Over the last decade-and-a-half, Mozambique registered an annual growth rate of 7.5 percent, the highest of nonoil exporting African countries. Our GDP per capita has grown to \$614 from around \$178 registered in 1996. That economic growth has been driven by sectors such as agriculture, industry, transports e-communications, tourism, fisheries, as well as energy and services, including financial and insurance services. With the starting of coal exports last year and the development of the natural gas projects, the country stands a chance of being one of the world's top players in the energy sector and income generated by the project will

contribute to accelerate the rate of economic growth in the country.

Mozambique remains among the 10 fastest-growing economies in the world. The macroeconomic reforms that the government is implementing and the strategy to improve the environment to conduct business, which focuses on five main vectors, namely, simplification of Business Startup Procedures; simplification of Requisites and Procedures for the Licensing of Economic Activities; establishment of a single General-Inspectorate for Economic Activities; adoption of International Norms; and Simplification of Procedures for Import and Export operations, are factors that played an important role in promoting growth. The political stability, sound macro-economic management, progressive integration into the regional and international markets as well as increased international community assistance, have also contributed to this performance.

Foreign direct investment has also increased significantly. A total of more than \$25 billion have been invested in Mozambique over the last decade by countries such as the United Kingdom, Portugal, the United Arab Emirates, Mauritius, China, India, South Africa, Brazil, the U.S. and others, which make up the list of the top 10 investors in Mozambique. From 2009 to 2014, we received investment projects worth about \$18.8 billion. Japanese FDI is firmly flowing to Mozambique to take advantage of the positive environment for doing business and the ample business opportunities that the country offers. Corporations like Mitsubishi, Sojitz, Mitsui, Nippon Steel, Sumitomo Mital, Impex, Hitachi, Marubeni, Toyota Tsusho Corporation, Toyo Engineer-



Mozambican President Armando Guebuza meets with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Jan. 12 in the capital Maputo during Abe's visit to Mozambique. AP



Rice cultivation in Mozambique EMBASSY OF MOZAMBIQUE

ing, JGC Corporation, Matsuda Consultants are very active in many projects ranging from energy and natural resources, to agriculture, construction and services. It is our hope that both Mozambican and Japanese private sectors take full advantage of the entering into force of the Agreement on Reciprocal Liberalization, Promotion and Protection of Investment, signed last year between the two governments.

On the social side, the government has continued to implement policies and strategies that have contributed to improve the quality of life of the

population. In this context access to education and health services in the rural areas have increased, as well as access to better housing and water. An evaluation of the status of implementation of the MDG's will be made next year and that will provide more details on where we are. Meanwhile 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.

Investment opportunities

The promotion of Special Economic Zones and Special Processing Zones are part of the strategy of the government of Mozambique attract more investors, to promote industrialization and to create employment. Presently two Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Nacala in Nampula Province, and Beluluane in Maputo Province are under implementation. The Beluluane Especial Processing Zone, is part of the Maputo Develop-

ment Corridor and it is where the Mozal Aluminum Smelter, where Mitsubishi Corporation is one of the shareholders, is located.

The Nacala SPZ is located in the Port of Nacala and will host an International Airport, now under construction that will cut by 3 hours flight time to the main international destinations such as Asia, Europe and America.

All those corridors are designed to provide high quality of services and respond to the growing demand of logistics and the overall development of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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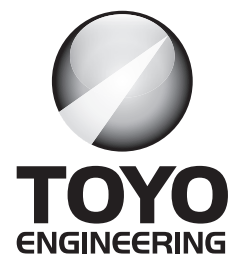


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Mozambique national day

Looking ahead to deeper cooperation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Mozambique and its neighbors.

In this context, I would like to invite all interested Japanese companies to participate in Mozambique's socioeconomic development by investing not only on the natural resources but also in other vital areas of our economy such as agriculture, energy, tourism, development of logistic infrastructures, notably roads, railways, ports and airports among others.

Cooperation with Japan

The visit of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Mozambique in January 2014, a first for a Japanese prime minister, constituted an important contributing factor for boosting and to strengthening bilateral relations between Mozambique and Japan at all levels. During the visit the countries sealed their commitment to build a new, broad and mutually-beneficial framework of cooperation through signing of the "AMIZADE" (friendship in Portuguese) agreement. This instrument aims at reinforcement of dialogue, vitalization of economic exchanges and acceleration of economic cooperation. In particular, the two countries will launch a framework for regular high-level policy dialogue and public-private joint dialogue.

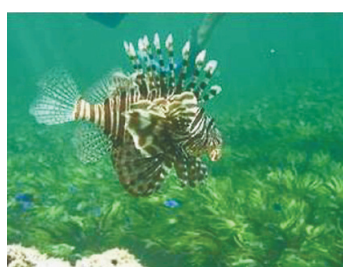
In addition, Abe announced plans for a development assistance package of ¥70 billion for Mozambique for the next five years, toward "Japan-Mozambique Mutual Growth." These funds will be used for the development of the NACALA Development Corridor, one of five major growth corridors set forth in TICAD V, based on the strategic master plan in the region, to promote cooperation in various fields including medical care, education, disaster risk reduction and climate change from the view point of human security.

Abe also pledged to train 300 youths from Mozambique in the field of natural resources development and its related industries and environmental protection through the Abe Initiative (the African Business Education Initiative for the Youth) and other technical assistance. Japan also reiterated its intention to strengthen cooperation in the field of infrastructure development such as roads, ports and electricity, and industrial development.

Abe was accompanied during his visit to Mozambique by about 30 presidents and CEO's of 29 leading corporations, a



Development of natural resources in Mozambique EMBASSY OF MOZAMBIQUE



Mozambique is home to a wide variety of marine life. EMBASSY OF MOZAMBIQUE

clear indication of interest to participate in the development of Mozambique. On the same occasion, President Armando Guebuza and Abe attended the Mozambique-Japan Investment Forum, which was seen as strengthening of the business relationship toward the promotion and facilitation of further Japanese investment to Mozambique and confirmed efforts to be taken by both countries for the development of investment-friendly environment.

Abe also included the meeting with women's national basketball team of Mozambique as part of exchanges in the field of sports toward the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

Cooperation between Mozambique and Japan, which is conducted through ODA (grants, technical cooperation and soft yen 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

Multilateral Relations

At the multilateral level, Mozambique and Japan are cooperating through the framework of TICAD. The participation of Guebuza at the TICAD V, which took place in June last year, confirms not only the importance that Mozambique attributes to this forum but also the recognition of the valuable and uncontested contribution that TICAD process is giving to the development of Mozambique to Africa in general. On that occasion Guebuza held important consultations with Abe and other government authorities of Japan and he also had a constructive dialogue with leadership of Japanese corporations that have business interests in Mozambique, in order to deepen the interaction between the two countries.

As follow up of TICAD V, Mozambique participated in the First Ministerial Meeting held from 4th to 5th May 2014, at the "Palais des Congres," in

Yaounde. The ministers and delegations of African countries met to endorse the Implementation Matrix of the Yokohama Action Plan 2013-2017 as developed by the TICAD V Joint Secretariat. The meeting reiterated the promise to strengthen economic growth, empower farmers,

promote sustainable growth, build an inclusive society as well as consolidate peace, stability, democracy and good governance, in the African continent.

Land mines conference

As part of its contribution for a world free of antipersonnel

land mines, Mozambique is going to host on June 26 and 27, the 3rd International Conference on Elimination of Antipersonnel Land Mines. Jointly organized with the United Nations, the conference will evaluate the status of implementation of the Ottawa Convention on the Elimination of Antipersonnel Land Mines for 2015 and make recommendations to ensure that land mines are eliminated off the face of the earth by 2025. Mozambique has been at the forefront of this initiative, because the country was affected by wars in which many land mines were planted. When peace was finally achieved in November 1992, the removal of antipersonnel land mines became a priority. It was, on the one side important to secure the safety and the free circulation of goods and people, but also to free the land so that people could use the land for production. Otherwise we recognize that work still has to be done. We are proud to say that the Mozambique is making an effort, with the support of the international community, to be a country completely free from antipersonnel land mines in the near future.

I want also to place on record the profound recognition of the government of Mozambique for the valuable and opportune support the government of Japan through the provision of hi-tech equipment that has accelerated the process of removing the antipersonnel land mines. We are pleased to learn that Japan is going to send a high-level delegation to the conference in Maputo, which will provide both countries an opportunity to jointly advocate for the global elimination of antipersonnel land mines as soon as possible.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to thank all the sponsors who made possible the publication of this message.

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