

Botswana independence day

Economic growth, peace and stability flourish in Botswana

Jacob Dickie Nkate
AMBASSADOR OF BOTSWANA

It is now 48 years since the Republic of Botswana was born and these have been happy years of peace and progress. Once again we applaud the warm relations that exist between our



country and Japan. Indeed on behalf of H.E. President Lt. Gen. Seretse Khama Ian Khama and the people and government of Botswana, we bring heartfelt greetings and wishes of good health, peace and prosperity to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, as well as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the government and people of Japan.

For almost half a century,

Botswana has become synonymous with peace, stability, social progress and prudent economic management. Botswana has a flourishing multiparty constitutional democracy which has operated continuously since independence in 1966. Free and fairly contested elections have been held every five years as will be the case in a few weeks' time when the country shall hold its 11th general election.

Botswana has earned a reputation as the best performing economy in Africa over a thirty-year period. This prolonged growth took Botswana from being one of the poorest countries in the world in 1966 to middle income status by the 1990s and Botswana is the world's largest producer of diamonds by value. Our economic successes have been reflected by various international assessment institutions. Since 2001, sovereign credit rating agencies (Moody's and Standard & Poor's) have given Botswana the highest credit ratings in Africa. These high ratings reflect Botswana's strong financial position, well-managed growing economy



Located in the northern part of Botswana, the Okavango Delta is the world's largest delta and is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. EMBASSY OF BOTSWANA

and political stability.

We are however, too dependent on mining, specifically of diamonds. There are a number of sectors that Botswana is working hard to diversify into such as financial and business services, tourism, manufacturing and agriculture. Diversification within the mining sector is also an important part of the broader transformation pro-

cesses. These include the promotion of downstream activities in the diamond industry; the relocation of the De Beers Diamond Trading Company International (DTCI) from London to Gaborone; and the establishment of various diamond marketing channels outside of DTC by both new diamond mining companies and the government.

Tourism and wildlife are inextricably linked in Botswana and the country has reserved 17 percent of its territory as game reserves and an additional 20 percent as wildlife management areas. It is for this reason that Botswana's Okavango Delta — UNESCO's 1000th World Heritage site — is home to some of the world's most endangered wildlife species.

Botswana's impressive economic performance since independence has been the basis

for widespread social development and progress. Government revenues derived from the mining sector have been used to fund extensive social provision. Compared to 1966 many achievements have been made in realizing universal primary and secondary education, health care, access to clean water, roads and other infrastructure. These high levels of social provision have contributed to a steady reduction in poverty rates, resulting in the country's middle income status today.

Japan and Botswana have enjoyed a very cordial relationship since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1966. With the setting up of resident missions in Tokyo and Gaborone in 1997 and 2008 respectively, our two countries' bilateral relations have strengthened over the years in the areas of political dialogue, economic relations, capacity building and sociocultural exchanges.

In the last year we have witnessed several high-level visits by officials of both governments, including minister, which culminated with the commencement and continuation of various projects jointly undertaken. These included the adoption of the Japanese Digital Broadcasting standard by Botswana and the continuation and expansion of a JOG-MEC remote sensing center. Another case in point was the finalization of commercial agreements on the results of joint research on Kalahari watermelon genes between the Nara Institute of Science and Technology, Japan Tobacco International and Botswana's

Working to foster better bilateral economic, cultural relationships

Ryoichi Matsuyama
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-BOTSWANA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



country.

I had the privilege to live in Botswana from 2008 to 2011 as Ambassador of Japan to Botswana. During that time I was impressed by the country not just because of its natural beauty but also the industry of its people and the determination of its government to develop the country and be a good contributor to world peace and harmony.

Japan and Botswana have enjoyed a very cordial relationship since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1966. With the setting up of resident missions in Tokyo and Gaborone in 1997 and 2008 respectively, our bilateral relations have strengthened over the years in the areas of political dialogue, economic relations, capacity building and sociocultural exchanges.

At the JBFA, we are inspired by this successful cooperation to play an active role in contributing toward strengthening and deepening relations between the people of Japan and Botswana by promoting better understanding and collaborations between the public as well as private organizations of our two countries.

I hope the JBFA will provide an alternate platform for communication and networking between Japan and Botswana through various forms of economic cooperation, as well as cultural exchanges, including serving as an informal link between our people to foster open dialogue on issues of concern and closer relations through various activities and events which we shall announce in due course. I am confident that through our concerted efforts, the Japan-Botswana relationship will become brighter in the future.
PULA!

Department of Agricultural Research. Botswana also continues to train its people in various fields and to this end many Botswana are in various training institutions in Japan.

On the occasion of the 48th

Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Botswana, it is my honor to once again invite all to come to Botswana as investors, tourists and development partners.

PULA!

Congratulations

to the People of

The Republic of Botswana

on the 48th Anniversary of

Their Independence



— Outgrow your limits —

Nara Institute of Science and Technology

8916-5 Takayama-cho, Ikoma, NARA,
630-0192, JAPAN

<http://www.naist.jp/en/>

Congratulations

to the People of the Republic of Botswana
on the 48th Anniversary of
Their Independence



GSYUASA

Email address: hatsumi.yamada@jp.gs-yuasa.com

Email address2: kenta.tokuda@jp.gs-yuasa.com

URL: <http://www.gs-yuasa.com/gyin/en/>