

Uganda independence day

Peace, stability, good governance in march to modernization

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AMBASSADOR OF UGANDA

Today marks the 52nd anniversary of Uganda's Independence, and I would like to take this opportunity to extend our profound gratitude to the people of Japan for their support and friendship over the years. I am further honored on this occasion to convey the warm greetings and goodwill of H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, pres-



ident of the Republic of Uganda to their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, as well as the people and government of Japan, for the strong partnership between our two countries.

On behalf of the people and government of Uganda, I hereby express sincere sympathy and deep condolences to the people and government of Japan, especially to the families of the victims of the recent landslides in Hiroshima and the eruption tragedy on Mount Ontake.

Uganda continues on a

steady path of modernization enabled by a conducive investment climate, peace, stability, good governance and positive political will. These have attracted foreign investment that has increased the annual rate of economic growth to an average of 6 percent.

Bilateral relations

Over the years, Japan and Uganda have been promoting and enjoying close friendly relations, and the partnership between the two countries continues to grow stronger. A number of high-ranking Ugandan government dignitaries

have visited Japan, including President Museveni; speaker of the parliament of Uganda; several cabinet ministers; and most recently, the minister of foreign affairs who is also the president of the 69th session of the U.N. general assembly, who visited Japan in July 2014.

Senior Japanese dignitaries have visited Uganda as well, including Prince Akishino and Princess Kiko; the president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency; cabinet ministers; and members of the Diet. Additionally, over 500 Japanese have so far worked in Uganda at various levels under

the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers. These increasing visits are indeed a testament to the ever-increasing strong relations between the two countries.

Economic cooperation

We commend the government of Japan for its continued technical assistance to Uganda through JICA that has allowed for various projects in the infrastructure, energy, agriculture, health and education sectors.

The technical assistance extended is indeed complementary with the Ugandan government's policy of economic transformation, called VISION 2040. Under the able leadership of Museveni, the government intends to transform Ugandan Society from a peasant one to a modern and prosperous country within 30 years.

As a result of making economic transformation a national priority, the proportion of people living below the poverty line has declined from more than 56 percent in 1992 to 19.7 percent in 2012/13. Uganda has therefore, already surpassed the first millennium develop-

ment goal of halving the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty by 2015. The country has also dealt comprehensively with the debt problem and is making steady progress in the elimination of gender disparity.

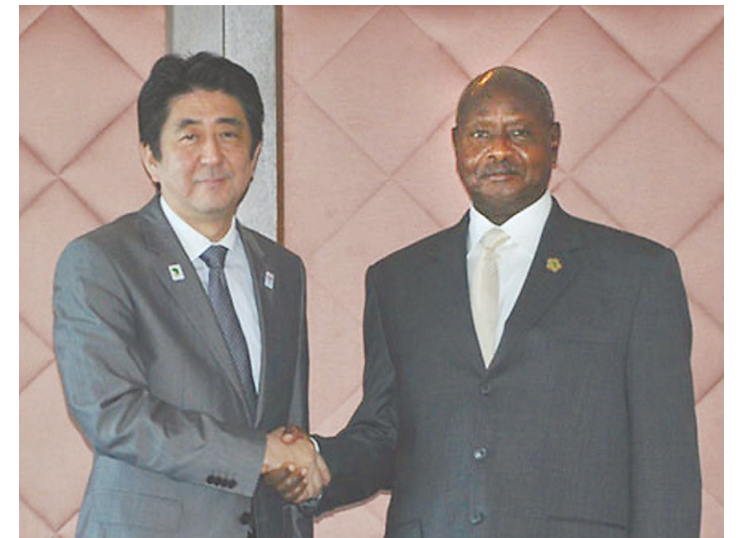
To enhance development, Uganda is negotiating with Japan to facilitate the acquisition of Japanese earth moving equipment for infrastructure improvement. Negotiations are also underway for the construction of flyovers to facilitate traffic decongestion in Kampala City.

I take this opportunity to thank those Japanese investors, companies, SMEs and NPOs already operating in Uganda and invite more to follow suit and take advantage of the favorable business environment.

Trade between the two countries continues to improve. Uganda's naturally fertile soil and good weather offer organically grown food such as sesame, coffee, tea, vanilla and beans that can supplement Japan's tables.

Tourism

The distinctive attraction of



President of Uganda Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe meet on June 2 in Yokohama on the sideline of the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V). CABINET PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

Uganda as one of the best tourist destinations arises from the variety of its wildlife and its unspoiled scenic beauty. It is in this incredibly lush green country that tourists can observe the big five — elephants, lions, buffaloes, rhinoceroses and leopards — plus two (mountain gorillas and chimpanzees), and many more animals roaming the open plains. It is estimated that 50 percent of the world's population of mountain gorillas live in Uganda. The country is also home to 11 percent of the world's bird species, making for an exceptional number of birds for viewing.

The country is the source of the mighty Nile River, which flows over the spectacular Murchison Falls, an area that presents some of the world's most thrilling commercial white-water rafting. The snow-capped peaks of the Rwenzori Mountain range run across the Equator, providing a tantalizing challenge to dedicated mountaineers. The range has been voted among the top hiking places in Africa and among the top hiking spots in the world.

Kidepo National Park in

northeastern Uganda was named as the third best park in Africa by CNN Travel.

Uganda was recently voted as the number one tourist destination by Lonely Planet, which noted, "Uganda is Africa condensed, with the best of everything the continent has to offer packed into the small, but stunning destination."

The Africa Travel Association Conference, a huge annual world congress of tourism lovers, which attracts delegates from all over the world, will be hosted by Uganda in November.

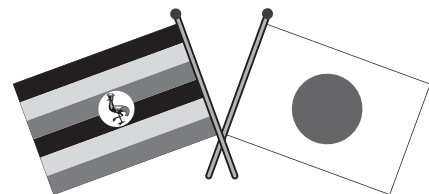
I therefore invite you to visit Uganda to sample for yourselves the rich diversity of the "Pearl of Africa."

On Oct. 9th we thank God Almighty for what he has enabled us to achieve, and look forward to yet another year of even closer friendship between the government and people of Japan and Uganda.

I thank all the companies that supported the printing of this supplement, and I wish all Ugandans, friends and well-wishers a happy Uganda National Day celebration.

For God and my country.

Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Uganda
on the 52nd Anniversary of
Their Independence



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Uganda is home to half of the world's remaining mountain gorillas, which number in the 600s. EMBASSY OF UGANDA