

Zambia independence day

Beacon of peace and development

Ng'ona Mwelwa
Chibesakunda
AMBASSADOR OF ZAMBIA

Greetings from H.E. President of the Republic of Zambia Michael Chilufya Sata to the Imperial family, H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the people of Japan. On behalf of the people and government of Zambia, I convey our profound condolences to the government of Japan and the people, especially the families who lost their loved ones and property in the recent volcanic eruption on Mount Ontake.



Fifty years ago on Oct. 24 1964, Zambia was born in south-central Africa. Initially under British colonial rule as part of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia, Zambia separated from the federation, leaving Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, and Nyasaland, now Malawi. Since gaining independence from colonial rule, Zambia has continued independently on the road to development and prosperity.

For five decades, Zambia has been celebrating its independence. Today, Zambians in the diaspora, including Japan have joined in celebrating this Golden Jubilee under the theme; Commemorate God's favor of Zambia's 50 years of Independence for continued peace, unity, democracy, patriotism and prosperity.

The legacy of maintaining independence for fifty years makes Zambia a shining beacon of peace among many nations, not only in Africa, but beyond. The country has managed to maintain peace through tolerance of divergent views, beliefs, cultures and traditions. This, coupled with the warm hospitality of Zambians, makes it easy to live and work in Zambia. International investors and tourists equally enjoy the serenity of Zambia.

Good governance

Zambia exhibits a commitment to the promotion of democracy and good governance as essential principles in creating, securing and maintaining a country where business can thrive. The country has been ruled by five democratically elected governments. First as a partial one-party state under H. E. President David Kenneth Kaunda who

handed over the presidency to Frederick T.J. Chiluba in 1991 as the country moved into a multiparty participatory democracy. Since then, the country has been led by H.E. President Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, H.E. Rupiah Bwezani Banda and currently by H.E. President Michael Chilufya Sata. All the transitions have been done through elections, held every five years in an atmosphere of peace and consensus. This makes Zambia one of the countries that observe and practice good-governance, uphold democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Currently, the country is in the process to review and enhance the legal and justice system, beginning with preparing and enacting a new constitution acceptable by the majority of Zambians.

Blessed with abundant natural resources, Zambia has recorded steady growth, making notable strides in its quest to eradicate poverty.

Currently, the country is undergoing unprecedented transformation, recording strong indicators of progress in the political, economic and social spheres under the leadership of President Sata and the Patriotic Front government. The country has continued to post robust economic growth in excess of 6 percent in the last three years.

Mining, agriculture

Mining has been the mainstay of Zambia's economic development and source of employment, foreign exchange earnings and contribution to the GDP. Production has continued to increase and copper production in 2013 stood at 765,037 metric tons. Production is expected to reach 1 million metric tons annually by 2017 as more investors enter the sector.

Gemstones have become an important contributor to the growth of the mining sector and the economy. In 2011, gemstones sales stood at \$32.4 million, rising to \$40.4 million in 2012. In 2013, sales again significantly increased to \$100.5 million. The sharp increase in sales was a result of a government initiative to auction emeralds locally as well as the determination to promote small scale miners to have them actively contribute to economic growth.

The government has realized agriculture can greatly complement mining in economic development and has prioritized agriculture as a key for economic growth and poverty reduction. Zambia's stra-



President of the Republic of Zambia Michael Chilufya Sata

tegic focus in the agriculture sector is to achieve food security, promote crop diversification, as well as increase productivity and value addition.

The country has continued to register significant growth. This year, Zambia achieved a record maize harvest of 3.4 million metric tons, thanks to the favorable government policies, hard-working farmers and favorable weather. To increase production and food security, the government is working to create 17,500 irrigated hectares for small and medium scale farmers by 2016.

Energy

In the electricity sector, the government has continued to implement projects in generation, transmission and distribution. Generation capacity was 1,669 MW in 2011 and this has increased to 2,310 MW as of 2014 on the back of various projects, including the 360 MW Kariba North Bank hydro power extension. Progress is also being made to complete the Itzhi-tezhi hydro power

and Mamba thermal power projects, while work is ongoing on the Kafue Gorge Lower and Lusiwasi hydro power projects. All this is in the effort to mitigate energy shortages in Zambia and across the region.

Domestic development

The government continues to implement the rural electrification program, which is now focusing on new districts. There are also plans to connect rural areas to the national grid, opening rural areas to industrial and economic growth.

Education and skills development are keys to Zambia's overall goal of accelerated national development. The government has been increasing education quality with increased access through school construction and expansion. There has also been expansion and creation of colleges and universities, which will increase the skilled human resources that will subsequently contribute to economic growth. This is further assurance to foreign investors of the availability of a viable workforce, ready for employment.

For any society to thrive, people's good health is crucial, making access to quality health services the cornerstone of Zambia's health policy. The government has continued to increase availability of good and professional health services. There are efforts to increase drug availability, medical personnel and modernize hospitals and clinics across Zambia. These efforts are aiming to reach the Millennium Development Goals on health.

The government is committed, along with public private partnerships, to ensuring all citizens have good, affordable housing.

Zambia endeavors to promote gender and child devel-

opment in all its programs, putting in place stringent measures to protect the rights of women and children. To ensure gender equity, the government has appointed a high number of women in leadership and decision-making positions.

To complement growth in all sectors and in all corners of the country, the government has continued to place great importance on road development. Progress is being made on all major road projects such as Link Zambia 8000, aimed at paving 2,245 kilometers of roads, Pave Zambia 2000 and Lusaka 400, aimed at improving the road network in the cities.

Despite the tremendous development of the economy, unemployment remains one of Zambia's major concerns. Although 456,539 formal jobs have been created since 2011, the government has adopted an industrialization and job strategy focusing on growth sectors such as agro-processing, manufacturing, tourism, construction, creative industries, information technology, clothing and textiles to increase the number of jobs created.

Foreign investment

To mitigate shortcomings, Zambia is keen to raise the rate of investment in the economy. In the last three years, the country attracted \$5.2 billion in direct foreign investment. This is a clear indication that Zambia is an attractive investment destination for foreign entrepreneurs. To complement this, the government established the industrial development corporation to oversee and manage state-owned enterprises by recapitalizing them so as to complement private-sector investment.

Zambia has long been striving to become an export-led

Working together to promote bilateral friendship, mutual understanding, further interactions

Katsumi Yamaguchi
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-ZAMBIA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION;
PRESIDENT, ECC GROUP OF SCHOOLS



Congratulations to the Republic of Zambia on their Golden Jubilee 50th Anniversary celebration of Independence Day. On behalf of the members of our association, all of the students and staff at the ECC Group of Schools and the people of Japan, we are sincerely pleased to extend our warmest congratulations to H.E., President Michael Chilufya Sata, and our love and friendship to all the people of the peace-loving country of the Republic of Zambia.

Since its very beginning, Zambia has dedicated itself to democracy, peace, and cooperation. I am very impressed to see Zambia continuing to make steady strides as a peaceful, independent nation. I pray for the continued progress of your country and the peace and happiness of all the people of Zambia. Our association has had the great honor to join the people of the Republic of Zambia in celebrating its Independence Day each year

since our establishment in 1975.

The charter of our fellowship is based on the founding philosophy of ECC Foreign Language Institute, the establishing body of the association: "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."

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

With heartfelt wishes for an ever brighter future, the association and the ECC Group of Schools will continue to make every possible effort, even in our small way, in the hopes of strengthening and increasing the ties of friendship between our two nations.

economy and the country has made significant progress in export diversification, as non-traditional exports now account for 33 percent of total exports, up from 20.9 percent in 2011.

Additionally, there has been an increase in foreign investors. The Zambian Embassy in Tokyo has noted increased visits to Zambia and inquiries for business opportunities in Zambia from Japanese entrepreneurs.

Besides an excellent business environment and immense opportunities, Zambia has legislation such as the ZDA Act in place to protect investors. Zambia participates in the World Bank Group's Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency and is also a member of the International Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes. The country's tax policy is excellent, with a corporate tax of zero for the

first 5 years after an investment's first profitable year. Investors can repatriate 100 percent of profits with no foreign exchange controls. Zambia is 68th in the ranking of 189 economies on the ease of paying taxes. This is according to the World Bank's 2013 Doing Business report.

The availability of numerous international banks also makes it easier to manage investments and capital in Zambia. Globally, Zambia stands at 13 in the ranking of 189 economies on the ease of getting credit, according to the World Bank report.

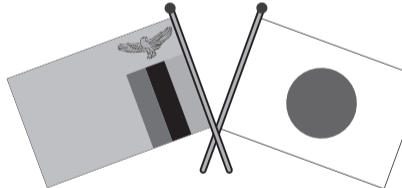
Surrounded by eight countries and as a member to many multilateral and regional organizations such as the Southern Africa Development Community and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Zambia offers an excellent location for business with access to markets. Zambia is also party to the Africa Growth Op-

portunity Act of the U.S. and has access to quota preferences and duty-free entry into the US market. Similarly, Zambia has access to the European Union market under the Everything, but Arms Initiative which allows for duty-free exports to the EU.

These and other incentives have made Zambia's private sector successful. The economy was rejuvenated when the country decided to liberalize its economy and privatize state-owned companies. Since then, Zambia has fared well as a country whose policies and conditions make it easy to start and register businesses. According to the World Bank, Zambia stands at 45 in the ranking of 189 economies on the ease of starting a business.

The time is now for Japanese companies looking to expand their businesses to Zambia to gain a good share of Africa's emerging market.

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to the People of
the Republic of Zambia
on the 50th Anniversary of
Their Independence




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