

Mozambique national day

Dynamic social and economic infrastructure

Belmiro José Malate
AMBASSADOR OF MOZAMBIQUE

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of Mozambique's Independence. On this important occasion I have honor in extending to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko best wishes of good health and happiness. My greetings are equally extended to the Japanese government and people and to all the friends of Mozambique who are celebrating with us today. I want to pay homage to all Mozambicans residing in Japan and join them in celebrating one more year of successes of our beloved country.



The independence of Mozambique is the product of the sacrifice of many compatriots who gave their lives so we could be free today. In this context we remember our brothers and sisters who resisted against colonial occupation. Particularly, we remember the five hundred countrymen who were massacred in Mueda, when on June 16, 1960 they demanded the independence of Mozambique to the then Portuguese colonial government. The massacre encouraged many Mozambicans to organize themselves into political parties to fight for independence. This is how the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) was born in 1962, and Dr. Eduardo Mondlane led the national liberation struggle that culminated in the achievement of independence on June 25, 1975. During this process many citizens gave their lives and they deserve our tribute.

Soon after independence, motivated by the spirit of solidarity, Mozambique supported the national liberation struggle in Southern Africa, which resulted in the independence of Zimbabwe, Namibia and the democra-

tization of South Africa. This process plunged Mozambique into the cold war and a civil war that lasted 16 years and resulted in the deaths of more than a million Mozambicans and destruction of economic and social infrastructure. Peace was finally achieved in 1992 and Mozambicans entered a reconciliation process that continues today. The peace brought stability, allowing the process of reconstruction and development to be launched. We want to thank all the brotherly peoples of Africa and other continents, the African Union, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the solidarity organizations who have given us support in these difficult moments of our history.

The Achievements

Of the achievements in the 40 years of Mozambique being a member of the community of nations, I want to highlight the fact that we have embraced democracy and the rule of the law as the main foundation of our political system. Since the adoption of the multilateral political system in 1990, the country has hosted regular, peaceful and transparent elections every five years.

Over the last 15 consecutive years, Mozambique registered an annual growth rate of more than 7 percent, making it the highest of a nonoil exporting country. That economic growth has been driven by sectors such as agriculture, industry, transport and communications, tourism, fisheries and aquaculture, as well as energy and services, including financial and insurance services. GDP per capita has grown to \$700 from around \$80 registered in 1992. Soon after the war of destabilization the level of external dependence was more than 80 percent. The development programs that the government has been implementing have ensured that today, the country receives ex-

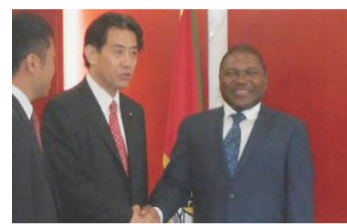
ternal funding of only about 25 percent of the total budget requirements, which is used for investment in economic and social projects. The telecommunications network, particularly the mobile services, reaches all parts of the country, including rural areas.

On the social sphere it's important to highlight that illiteracy was reduced from 97 percent at independence to 46 percent today. Eighty-five percent of the children are today enrolled in primary education and the majority of the population has access to primary health care services. The number of university students is today more than 30,000 compared to less than a thousand at independence. To facilitate the circulation of people and goods, the government has invested heavily in the development and improvement of the road network, while 40 percent of the people have access to electricity.

It is also worth noting that, thanks to the continuous efforts of the government to improve the environment to do business, the country is a favored destination for investment in Africa. In the last five years alone more than \$23 billion has been invested in Mozambique. From 2013 to 2014, the country approved proposals for investment projects worth about \$18.8 billion. This trend will continue and increase in the future as projects related to the development of mineral and energy resources are realized.

The challenges

Despite these achievements the country still faces challenges. The next five-year development plan includes, as main priorities, the consolidation of national unity, peace and sovereignty, the development of human and social capital; the promotion of employment, productivity and competitiveness; the development of economic and social infrastructure; and sustainable



Clockwise from above: Ichiro Aisawa, member of the House of Representatives, attends the inauguration ceremony of President of Mozambique Filipe Jacinto Nyusi (right) on Jan. 15 in Maputo; The statue of Eduardo Mondlane, architect of Mozambican national unity; Technical training for youth

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN; EMBASSY OF MOZAMBIQUE

and transparent management of natural resources and the environment. This program will ensure that the government continues its efforts to eradicate poverty and to improve the standard of living of the Mozambicans. To achieve these goals we will continue to count on the cooperation of our partners such as Japan.

Bilateral cooperation

The relations of cooperation between Mozambique and Japan were formally established in 1979, and they have been expanding from official development assistance (ODA) to a diversified partnership, which includes political dialogue, investment, trade and people-to-people interaction.

Bilateral cooperation, which includes the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), focuses on the

provision of social and economic infrastructure, education and health support, development of human resources, capacity building, agriculture, community development, mitigation of the effects of climate change, improvement of food security, water and sanitation, science and technology and the promotion of business.

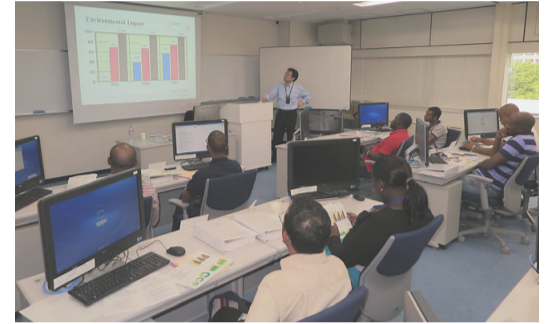
Most recently, the "Amizade" (friendship in Portuguese) agreement was signed in January 2014 during the visit of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Mozambique. This new instrument established a framework to deepen and boost bilateral cooperation and enhance public and private partnerships. Three pillars, namely the reinforcement of political dialogue, the vitalization of economic exchanges and the acceleration of economic cooperation, were identified as the main priorities. An assistance



Farming in the Nacala Corridor JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY



Left: A delegation from the port authority of Mozambique visits Minami Honmoku Pier in Yokohama. Right: Trainees from Mozambique participate in programs in Japan. CITY OF YOKOHAMA PORT & HARBOR BUREAU; JAPAN OIL, GAS AND METALS NATIONAL CORPORATION



package of approximately ¥70 billion (\$670 million) over the next five years was pledged by Japan to promote "Japan-Mozambique Mutual Growth."

The political dialogue, which is being conducted through regular high-level policy discussions and public-private joint talks, is designed to promote a better understanding of the development needs between the political leadership of the two countries to create an appropriate environment for cooperation to flow. On the other hand, regular political dialogue will ensure that business initiatives have political understanding and the necessary support from both governments.

The meetings that took place between the President Armando Guebuza and Abe, both during TICAD V in 2013 and during Abe's visit to Mozambique 2014, were important occasions to re-

alize high-level political dialogue to promote cooperation between the two countries. It is also worth noting that the first public-private political dialogue took place last July in Maputo and contributed to strengthening the business relationship toward the promotion and facilitation of further Japanese investment in Mozambique. The second one is currently under preparation and will take place in Japan.

In order to vitalize the economy an important program is currently under implementation along the Nacala Corridor, which links the Port of Nacala, in Nampula, Mozambique, to the province of Niassa, in the northwest of Mozambique and the Republic of Malawi. This corridor has been identified as one of the priority initiatives under the TICAD V priorities designed to support regional integration in Africa. The port of Nacala is

currently undergoing renovations, expansion and modernization through a combination of ODA and soft loans provided by the governments of Japan and Mozambique. The program also includes the improvement of the road network and power supply to the port. The Nacala Corridor will be an important port to link the Asian and Southern African markets.

Another important TICAD initiative that is being implemented in the context of three-way cooperation (Mozambique, Japan and Brazil) is the ProSavana, a program designed to transform subsistence farmers into commercial producers through the transfer of agrotechnology. The ProSavana is inspired by the PEDSA (Strategic Plan for Agricultural Sector Development), an initiative launched by the government

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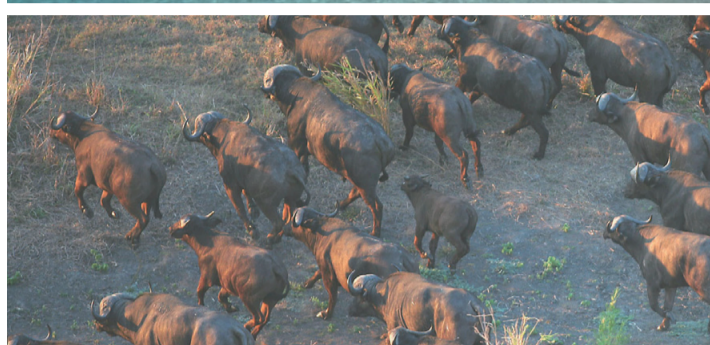
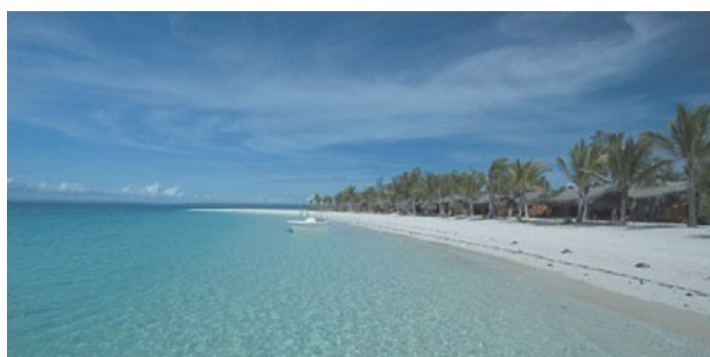
Strong economic cooperation

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of Mozambique aiming to: Accelerate the production of staple foods; increase income; ensure access and secure land tenure and natural resources; provide services considering the value chain; promote development of zones with high agricultural potential; and contribute to the balance of payments. The zero draft of the ProSavana strategic plan has been concluded and consultations with the targeted communities are taking place in order to arrive at an agreed plan. The implementation of the program will start this year.

To accelerate economic cooperation, the two governments signed, in June 2013, an agreement for Reciprocal Liberalization, Promotion and Protection of Investment. In 2014 Guebuza and Abe launched the "Japan-Mozambique Development Initiative Based on Natural Gas and Coal" and the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE) Initiative. These instruments will support the development of natural resources, particularly natural gas and coal, as Mozambique has in recent years discovered large reserves of these resources. These agreements will forge a strategic partnership based on a win-win situation for both parties. The natural resources that Mozambique has are of strategic importance to Japan since it does not possess these resources.

The expectation of Mozambique is that the participation of Japanese companies in the development of these resources will help in local value addition by promoting the establishment of related industries, and generate additional income that will result from exports. Japan possesses advanced technology, know-how and management skills that will be passed to Mozambique through this partnership.



Mozambique is home to beautiful beaches and wildlife, such as buffalo. EMBASSY OF MOZAMBIQUE

Companies such as Mitsubishi Corporation, Mitsui & Co., Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Metal, Inpex, Hitachi Construction Machinery, Sojitz Corporation, Ichii Maputo, Kaneshiro, Sumitomo, Marubeni, Nippon Koei, Chiyoda and Yahiro are very active in Mozambique. Their interests range from coal mining, development of natural gas, value addition to gas, provision of technical services, aluminium smelting, logistics, developing railway infrastructure, biofuel, agriculture, wood chips, fisheries, recycling, consulting, engineering and real estate. Thanks to this process, trade between the two countries is beginning to show positive signs and is expected to grow as exports of coal and LNG begin to reach the Japanese market. We are also encouraged by the fact that bananas, clams and beans from Mozambique are already being consumed in Japan.

Through the ABE Initiative,

over the next five years, 300 youth from Mozambique will benefit from scholarships for post-graduate training in areas related to natural resources exploration and development in Japan. The program is designed to support the initiative taken by the government of Mozambique to develop new skills that will allow the country to provide adequate labor for the projects under development in the coal, gas and petroleum industries. The Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation have also been very instrumental in providing short-term training to both the government and the private sector involved in the development of natural resources.

To conclude, I want to express our gratitude to the companies who have tirelessly sponsored the publication of my message on the occasion of the national day.

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