

D.R. Congo National Day

Investment opportunities available in variety of areas

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CONGO



This year on June 30, my country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, commemorates the 56th

Anniversary of its Independence. On this occasion, on behalf of the government of the D.R. Congo and on my own behalf, I would like to take this opportunity to express my congratulations to all Congolese people living in this beautiful country, Japan. I wish them happiness and success during their stay in this friendly country.

On this wonderful day, I have the honor and pleasure to hereby extend warm greetings and deep respect from the President of the D.R. Congo, H.E. Joseph Kabila Kabange, the government, as well as the Congolese people to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, as well as to all distinguished members of the Imperial family, members of the government and to all people of Japan.

As it is our custom every year, the celebration of our anniversary is a good moment to assess the progress of our country in many fields and on bilateral plans with our partners in general and with Japan in particular. In fact, since the independence of my country in 1960, Japan and the D.R. Congo have maintained a relationship that remains excellent today.

The 56th Anniversary of our



A highway and a government institute were repaired with assistance from Japan. RADIO OKAPI/JOHN BOMPENGO

Independence is very important and special because it coincides with the organization of the legislative and presidential elections at the end of the year. In fact, the government is dealing with real logistical and technical challenges in organizing these elections due to the large size of the country. The government and opposition leaders are looking at means to organize elections with the assistance of the international community to find a concerted solution and to organize democratic and transparent elections.

On bilateral relations, Japan has been one of the great partners of the D.R. Congo. It has participated in many projects and given much assistance to the Congolese population. I should praise among other achievements the construction of the Matadi Bridge, which was completed with Japanese official development assistance. From 2015 through 2017, Japanese engineers under the auspices of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are performing maintenance work on the Matadi Bridge. Japanese cooperation also contributed to the construction of Kinshasa's Poids Lourds road, which is much admired by the Congolese people. These projects

demonstrate the good partnership that exists between our two countries. Furthermore, Japan contributes to the stability and peacekeeping missions by providing training for the Congolese police in collaboration with the U.N. Mission for Stabilization of Congo (MONUSCO). Additionally, I would like to express my deep gratitude for the JICA's project in the D.R. Congo to build training centers for the professional and vocational training of Congolese people at the National Institute for Professional Preparation in Kinshasa and other regions.

The government is working hard in all fields of development of our country to enhance the social situation. Therefore in the economic field, the vision of the Congolese government is to diversify this important sector. To that end, we encourage the Japanese private sector to invest — as other partners of Congo have done — by investing in various areas, including mining, energy, agriculture, construction and others. The National Agency for Promotion of Investment constitutes the gateway that facilitates the administrative and legal procedures for all foreign investors interested in doing business in the D.R. Congo. This agency advises and provides res-



liable services to potential businesspeople that need a comprehensive overview of business opportunities and the size of the domestic market in different fields.

The mining sector

In mining, the D.R. Congo is well known for its important reserves of copper, cobalt, coltan, diamonds, gold, uranium, manganese, tin, nickel,

oil and other resources. We renew our invitation to the Japanese private sector to seize the opportunities in the mining industry to process materials for our mutual benefit.

Infrastructure promotion

Since 2011, the Congolese government, under the leadership of the president, has launched a new era of infrastructure modernization projects, in-

cluding those at the Kinshasa international airport, government hotel and other major public buildings throughout the country. The Congolese transportation network presents the greatest opportunities for investment. Railways and roads require fresh funds and appropriate technology to facilitate the movement of people and products.

Energy sector

As for the Grand Inga Dam project, we invite Japan to join other countries and invest in this regional mega-project under the New Partnership for African Development to produce hydroelectricity to meet the needs of many countries on the African continent.

As the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) will be organized for the first time on the African continent when it takes place in Nairobi in August, it is an opportunity for the

Japanese private sector to meet their Congolese partners and take a step toward investing in the D.R. Congo as others have. At the same time, the 56th anniversary of the D.R. Congo coincides with the preparations for TICAD VI, in which the Congolese government and private sector will participate. This conference constitutes an opportunity for the Japanese private sector to meet Congolese partners during this event.

In this context, we also praise the Japanese government under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for the contributions made by

Japan toward TICAD to help our continent to accelerate its development. A French proverb says, "Aides-toi et le Ciel t'aidera," which means "Help yourself and God will bless you." This proverb reminds us of the words Abe spoke when he visited Africa for the first time when he said, "It is important that every African has confidence in its capabilities and accumulates the effort to build the future." In conclusion, I hope the Japanese private sector will join other partners to invest in the D.R. Congo for the mutual benefit of our people.

Congratulations

to the People of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

on the 56th Anniversary of Their Independence

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from the president and staff of

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