

# Zambia Independence Day

## Celebrating unity and patriotism

**NDIYOI MULIWANA MUTITI**  
AMBASSADOR OF ZAMBIA



On the 53rd Independence Anniversary of Zambia, I wish to convey greetings from the President of the Republic of Zambia, His Excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu, to Their Majesties

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan, Prime Minister H.E. Shinzo Abe, and the people and government of Japan.

Zambia has remained a beacon of peace and stability over the last 53 years. This is underpinned by a strong belief in national unity, patriotism and the spirit of "One Zambia, One Nation." This year's theme of "Celebrating Our Freedom for Continued Peace, Unity, Patriotism and Development" ensures stable investment inflow and sustainable national development.



**President of the Republic of Zambia**  
H.E. Edgar Chagwa Lungu

The realization of sustainable development through the creation of a suitable business environment has continued to be reinforced by our president, who in his



**Soybean field in Zambia**  
EMBASSY OF ZAMBIA

address to the twelfth National Assembly last month stated: "I can confidently say that we are on course in our socioeconomic transformational journey. A journey aimed at achieving prosperity for all. A journey aimed at enhancing national unity, a journey anchored on our national motto 'One Zambia, One Nation.' It, therefore, now remains for us to continue building upon our successes as a united Zambia."

This is also a time to reflect on how Zambia and Japan have, in the past 53 years, shared excellent relations, evidenced by exchanges of regular high-level visits by the leadership of both countries, including the esteemed members of the Imperial household who have visited Zambia.

I wish to re-affirm the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation that have characterized the relations between Zambia and Japan. The two countries have over the years cooperated in several economic areas that have seen Zambia record improvement in many socioeconomic sectors through construction of infrastructure such as roads, schools, hospitals, clinics, as well as water and sanitation facilities. Japan has also been a major contributor to the development of Zambia's human resources and capabilities in various disciplines, including transfer of knowledge and technology in the mining, education, health and agriculture sectors among others.

Furthermore, the Japanese government through the Japanese International Cooperation Agency has supported Zambia in various areas such as vitalization of productive sectors and improvement of social infrastructure.

The ongoing economic growth demonstrates that Zambia is on a positive economic path. The acceleration of socio-

economic development largely depends on enhanced economic cooperation and continued investment inflows. As a country blessed with abundant resources, Zambia welcomes more Japanese investment in various sectors such as energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, science and technology with an emphasis on transfer of skills, technology and job opportunities in the country.

Zambia is committed to ensuring consistency in policy such that investors are assured that every agreement made shall remain as agreed at all times. Several sectors open to investment worth mentioning are listed below.

### Mining

The Zambian economy has historically been based on copper mining, as Zambia is among the main copper producers in the world. The country also produces precious metals (gold and silver), gemstones (emerald, amethyst, aquamarine and tourmaline), as well as coal and industrial minerals.

The focus in the mining sector is on the enhancement of mineral production to include non-traditional minerals such as gemstones and industrial minerals among others.

### Energy

Priority in this sector is placed on increasing the energy mix through promotion of off-grid electricity generation and alternative energy sources. In this regard, Zambia is undertaking reforms to boost private-sector participation.

### Multi-facility economic zones

In order to facilitate expansion of the country's industrial base, Zambia has developed multi-facility economic zones and industrial parks. Land and requisite infrastructure such as water, electricity and communication facilities are provided within the zones. Furthermore, companies



**Top: Victoria Falls; Left: Mining in Zambia** EMBASSY OF ZAMBIA, STEPHEN ROBINSON

wishing to set up in these zones are given various financial incentives.

### Agriculture and livestock

Zambia's territory is 75.2 million hectares, of which 42 million hectares is classified as having medium to high potential for agriculture production. Overall, the climate is favorable for agriculture. The Zambian agriculture sector comprises crops, livestock and fisheries. Other than corn, which is the most-cultivated crop, other major crops include cotton, soybeans, tobacco, groundnuts, sorghum, wheat, rice, sunflower seeds,

coffee, sugar, flowers and vegetables. The country's livestock subsector also produces everything, including hides and skins, derived from cattle, chickens and pigs.

It is now 53 years since independence and Zambia has continued to build a business-friendly environment that allows greater freedom for companies. I therefore take this opportunity to invite the Japanese business community to invest in Zambia's growing and secure economy. I further appeal to the Japanese people to visit Zambia as tourists and sample its ambience, beauty and hospitality.

## Mutual understanding key to friendly ties

**KATSUMI YAMAGUCHI**

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



On this auspicious occasion of the 53rd Independence Day of the Republic of Zambia, on behalf of the Japan-Zambia Friendship Association, students and staff at the ECC Group of Schools and the people of Japan, I am sincerely pleased to extend our warmest congratulations to His Excellency President Edgar Lungu, Her Excellency Ambassador of Zambia to Japan Ndiyoi Muliwana Mutiti and our love and friendship to all the people of the peace-loving country of Zambia. Since the founding of the Japan-Zambia Friendship Association in 1975, it has been a great honor to join the people of Zambia in celebrating its independence day each year.

The Japan-Zambia Friendship Association was established based on the founding philosophy of the ECC Foreign Language Institute, the charter body of the association. This philosophy states: "It is our goal, through the teaching of foreign languages, to contribute to the develop-

ment 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." 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.

The promotion of bilateral friendship and mutual understanding is the key to strengthening the ties between Japan and the Republic of Zambia. In the past year, we had the pleasure of meeting the first Ambassador of Zambia to Japan Lombe Chibesakunda, who together with ECC founder the late Isamu Yamaguchi, founded the association. Her passion in promoting bilateral ties continues to be as strong as ever. In Japan, Oct. 24, 1964, is remembered for being the closing ceremony of the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games, but it is also the day that the newly independent nation of Zambia was formed and Zambian athletes shared their joy and happiness with the people of Japan. As the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games rapidly approach we hope to continue to foster even stronger ties between Japan and Zambia.

Our association continues to carry out

various activities to promote mutual understanding and to form bonds of friendship between the people of Zambia and the people of Japan. This year we welcomed the ambassador to the ECC Group of Schools to give a seminar on investment and tourism in Japan. ECC Open Square also held an event introducing Zambian tourism, culture and language. Additionally, the association provided assistance with language translation and producing pamphlets to promote Zambian tourism. These efforts are made possible through the joint efforts of the ECC Group of Schools and the Japan-Zambia Friendship Association by holding the ECC Save-the-Earth Campaign to collect donations from ECC students and staff, as well as the general public. We sincerely hope that through our efforts more Japanese people will visit Zambia in the future and build long-lasting ties.

Once again, congratulations on the 53rd anniversary of the independence of Zambia. It is the greatest pleasure for our association to attempt to serve the needs of the people of Zambia, even in our small way. With heartfelt wishes for an ever-brighter future, the association and the ECC Group of Schools will continue to make efforts in the hopes of strengthening and increasing the ties of friendship between our two nations, and throughout the world, with the ultimate objective of eliminating the three great human tragedies of war, poverty and disease.

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on the 53rd Anniversary of  
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the Republic of Zambia  
on the Occasion  
of  
the 53rd Anniversary  
of  
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on the 53rd Anniversary  
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*Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Zambia  
on the 53rd Anniversary of Their Independence Day*

**JAPAN-ZAMBIA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION**

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