

# Mozambique National Day Special

## Working to build better nation

**JOSE MARIA MORAIS**  
AMBASSADOR OF MOZAMBIQUE



On June 25, Mozambique celebrates its National Day, a day that commemorates the 43rd Anniversary of Independence. On this historic day I would like, on behalf of the government

of Mozambique and myself, to present my warmest congratulations to the entire Mozambican community residing in Japan and wish them happy commemorations.

On this happy occasion, it's my honor to take this opportunity to extend my profound respect to His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito and Her Imperial Majesty Empress Michiko, and my warmest greetings to the Japanese government and to the people of Japan. On a sad note, allow me to take this opportunity to, on behalf of the people and government of Mozambique, present to the people and government of Japan our condolences for the victims and express our solidarity with the injured and the destruction caused by the recent earthquake that rocked Osaka and the Kansai region.

After 43 years, Mozambique continues its path of development and is growing as a democratic nation. Sectors such as agriculture and agro-processing, mineral resources and energy, tourism, financial services and the development of infrastructure, including telecommunications and transport, have contributed to the economic growth of the country.

To ensure inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic development, one of our national goals is poverty reduction; the government has elected the maintenance and consolidation of peace and stability as a central priority of its actions. It has identified as well, employment creation,

poverty reduction and greater competitiveness of the economy through higher productivity and diversification of the economy, as important measures to achieve inclusive development.

With two decades of strong economic growth, a single digit inflation and gross domestic product growth projected at 5.3 percent, the foundations of the Mozambican economy have strengthened and the country is resilient, continuing to attract foreign and national investments.

These results are thanks to the successful developmental choices we have made, the hard work, commitment and determination of our people to build a better Mozambique and to the assistance of our development partners, including Japan.

During the last four decades, our ties have strengthened and today, guided by the existing New Partnership Amizade, we have a comprehensive program of cooperation. Japan is one of Mozambique's significant development partners, with important development initiatives and investment in several projects in Mozambique, as well as by the regular exchange of contacts between the governments of both countries.

Among the several important projects for Mozambique's development, allow me to refer to a few, namely the Nacala Corridor, a gateway to Southern Africa,

with the involvement of the Japanese private sector and the ProSavana Program, an agricultural research and transfer of technology in agriculture, food security and livestock farming. Special reference must be made to the Japanese assistance in human resources development, in which scholarships provided by the Kizuna Program and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the African Business Education Initiative, Mozambicans are benefiting from postgraduate training, allowing the country to have an adequate and specialized labor force for the challenges of its development.

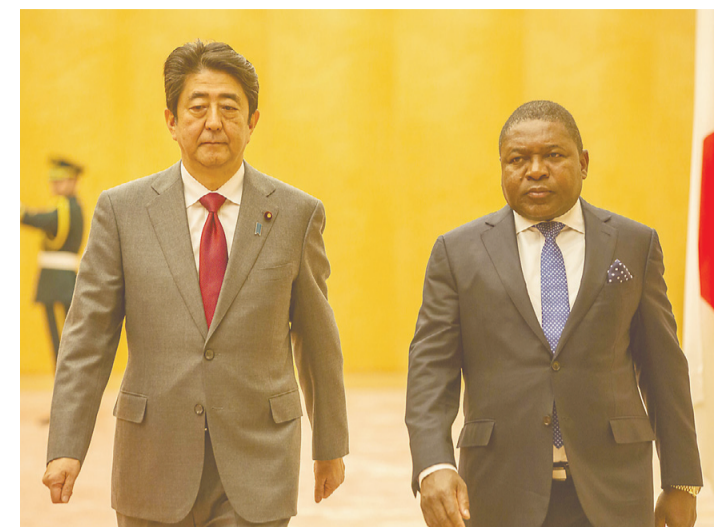
Another avenue of bilateral cooperation between our two countries is the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD). At the highest level, Mozambique has attended all TICAD conferences since its creation and had the honor of hosting the TICAD VI Follow-up Ministerial Meeting last year.

On the economic front, a reference must be made to very important investments made by Japanese companies in Mozambique in very strategic areas of our development, such as energy development and mineral resources, as well as infrastructure, among others, showing the confidence that they have in Mozambique and in its future. My government welcomes the growing investments of Japanese companies in Mozambique and expresses its willingness to provide a safe, secure and stable investment environment to facilitate the smooth progress of existing projects.

I would like to take this opportunity to, once again, present my warmest gratitude to the Japanese government for all the support it has provided toward the development of Mozambique. We believe that together, we will build a stronger partnership as we move to the next stage of development, with increased investments and growth in trade relations.



Emperor Akihito and President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi pose at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on March 15, 2017.  
PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi at a welcoming ceremony in Tokyo on March 15, 2017.  
PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

## Exchanges foster strong bilateral bonds

**JUNZO YAMAMOTO**  
MOZAMBIQUE LIAISON, JAPAN-AFRICAN UNION PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

I am elated to celebrate Mozambique's 43rd year of independence. As Mozambique's liaison in the Japan-African Union Parliamentary Friendship League, I am working hard to develop bilateral Japan-Mozambique relations. In my role, I have visited Mozambique several times and often had talks with dignitaries visiting Japan.

In March last year, President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi and first lady Isaura graced



some African elephants to us. On invitation, parliament speaker Veronica Macamo also visited Japan this February. We had the opportunity to exchange opinions in

us with their presence to celebrate the 40th year since our countries established diplomatic relations. Nyusi spoke kindly with myself and other League members, pledging to donate

person, and I was given the honor of welcoming the speaker's party to the Kyoto State Guest House as chair of the House of Councilors Committee on Rules and Administration. I am overjoyed with how actively we exchange visits with Mozambican dignitaries.

Mozambique has a special significance to me, given her long-standing private exchanges with my own hometown in Matsuyama, Ehime Prefecture. I hope that our two countries will continue to develop even closer ties and I vow personally to continue giving my all to this end.

## Strategic investment continues to grow

**MASAMI IJIMA**  
CHAIRMAN OF MITSUI & CO.



It is my distinct honor and privilege to extend my warm greetings to the people of the Republic of Mozambique on the occasion of the 43rd Anniversary of her independence.

I would like to pay my utmost homage to both the people who fought and struggled to gain independence, and the people who have built the nation into one of the fastest-growing economies in the world.

In terms of the bilateral relationship between Mozambique and Japan, this year marks the 41st anniversary of the estab-

lishment of diplomatic relations. In recent years, there has been an increase in visits by high-level government officials. In 2014, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe became the first Japanese prime minister to visit Mozambique, and last year, H.E. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, president of the Republic of Mozambique, visited Japan.


In view of the remarkable diplomatic bond between the two countries, investments made by the Japanese private sector have also been increasing in recent years. Mozambique is located in a strategic area with a long coastline that serves as a gateway for landlocked African countries, connecting Africa to the world. Her land and ocean are fertile and abundant with food resources. Furthermore, Mozambique is rich with natural resources. These assets attract foreign investors, and Japanese companies are no exception.

The Japan-Mozambique Business Friendship Association was established in 2015 as a private organization promoting economic and cultural exchange, and it contributes to cultivating a friendship between the two countries. Currently, 30 companies representing major industries in Japan are members of our association. Our mission is to contribute to strengthening relations between Mozambique and Japan at the private sector level for their mutual benefit, based on the good relationship established by the governments of both nations.

I strongly hope for further prosperity of the Republic of Mozambique and its citizens, and that the bonds between our two countries deepen.

*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*


**Congratulations**  
on the 43rd Anniversary of  
the Independence of  
the Republic of Mozambique



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