

Malawi National Day Special

Agricultural business amid natural wonders

GRENENGER K.M. BANDA
AMBASSADOR OF MALAWI



Let me welcome you all to this special article about Malawi. Today, July 6, 2018, is the 54th National Independence Day. At the time of attaining its independence in 1964, the popula-

tion of our country was 4 million, while in 2018 it is estimated at 18 million.

Before and after gaining independence, the country has remained predominantly agriculture-based economy. Ninety percent of the population lives in rural areas growing crops such as tobacco, tea, maize (corn), groundnuts (peanuts),

cotton, sugarcane, potatoes, cassava (manioc), sorghum, pulses, macadamia nuts and coffee, while some farmers are raising cattle, goats and other livestock. I have deliberately chosen to focus on the aspects that make Malawi a nation endowed with abundant, but unexploited wealth.

Lake Malawi has serene tropical freshwater that harbors more animal species than all other lakes in Africa combined. It is among very few places one can see and appreciate marine animals such as over 800 cichlid species in their natural habitat. Dr. David Livingstone of Scotland who reached the shores of Lake Malawi in 1859 called it the "Lake of Stars" for its natural beauty. The British later described the country as "The Warm Heart of Africa" for it being so welcoming, cheerful and having such peace-

loving people. Recently, His Excellency President Arthur Peter Mutharika said, "Malawi is the African paradox of a rich country with poor people, a small but great country. Where many see poverty, we see potential riches. Where others see challenges, we see opportunities." Such untapped investment opportunities range from fertile soil for agriculture and irrigation farming with sufficient raw materials, a plethora of natural resources such as minerals, lakes, rivers, mountains and forests to hard-working human capital.

With the president's view in mind, Malawi is undertaking economic structural adjustment programs that are supported by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other agencies. Among other things, these reforms aim for the stimulation of the private sector by lib-

eralizing the market and eliminating commodity price controls. Malawi has bilateral trade agreements with several trading partners, with Canada, Zimbabwe, the Republic of South Africa, the U.S., Egypt, Zambia, Germany and the Netherlands offering duty-free import of Malawi products. Malawi and Japan collaborate under the framework of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development that promotes private sector development and investment. In the Malawi context, TICAD is highly appreciated in actualizing the potential for economic growth and development.

In conclusion, Malawi at 54 could be said to be one of the fastest growing economies in Sub-Saharan Africa. Currently, inflation stands at a reduced single-digit rate of 9.7 percent, while economic growth sits at 4.1 percent.



A tea plantation in Malawi. Tea was first grown in the country in 1908. EMBASSY OF MALAWI


There has also been a significant increase in foreign direct investment. This has come about due to aggressive reforms and a legal framework that ensures protection of foreign investments. All these attributes make Malawian attractive

investment destination.

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

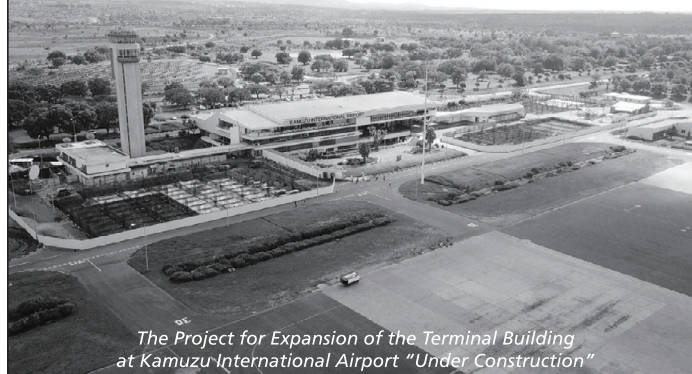


Top: Divers at Lake Malawi. Numerous dives are held all throughout the year at this popular spot. Above: Lake Malawi is home to a diverse variety of fish and other animals. EMBASSY OF MALAWI / GETTY IMAGES




Congratulations!

on the 54th Anniversary of
the Independence of
the Republic of Malawi




*The Project for Expansion of the Terminal Building
at Kamuzu International Airport "Under Construction"*




GYROS CORPORATION
<http://www.gyros.co.jp>

Congratulations
to the People
of
the Republic of Malawi
on the 54th Anniversary
of
Their Independence



JAPAN TOBACCO INC.
JT Bldg., 2-1, Toranomon 2-Chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-8422, JAPAN
Phone: (03) 3582-3111 Fax: (03) 5572-1463 URL: <http://www.jt.com>

Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Malawi on the 54th Anniversary of Their Independence



Metals/ Global Production Parts & Logistics/ Automotive/ Machinery, Energy & Project/
Chemicals & Electronics/ Food & Agribusiness/ Consumer Products & Services

Head Office : 4-9-8, Meieki, Nakamura-ku, Nagoya 81-52-584-5000
Tokyo Head Office : 2-3-13, Konan, Minato-ku, Tokyo 81-3-4306-5000
www.toyota-tsusho.com

Toyota Malawi Limited
(Official Authorized Toyota Distributor in Malawi)
Queens Corner, Masauko Chipembere Highway, P.O. Box 430, Blantyre, Malawi
TEL: 265-1841933 FAX: 265-1845369
Web site: <http://www.toyotamalawi.com>