

Zambia Independence Day Special

Resources promote steady economic growth

NDIYOI MULIWANA MUTITI
AMBASSADOR OF ZAMBIA



As Zambia celebrates 54 years of independence, it is important to note that the country has continued on its path of economic development. Zambia is blessed with abundant natural resources and a growing population that provides a solid human resource base. There are vast business opportunities in sectors such as agribusiness, energy, mining, manufacturing, tourism, science and technology. Our focus is on



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

the development and promotion of these sectors. Attention is also being given to extractive

industries and mineral value addition. This is in recognition that the country is endowed with rich mineral resources ranging from gemstones, precious and base metals and industrial and construction minerals among others.

The manufacturing sector consists of five subsectors — textiles, nonmetallic mineral products, basic metal, fabricated metal products, food and beverages, tobacco, petroleum and chemical and plastic products. The Zambian small and medium-sized enterprises sector is also being promoted, as it is an important component of the informal economy with potential to grow even further.

Zambia has made economic strides with support from cooperating and development partners such as Japan. I wish to reaffirm

the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation that have characterized the relations between our two countries. Japan has been a major contributor to the development of Zambia through direct investments, development of human resources and capabilities in various disciplines — this includes the transfer of knowledge and technology.

It is worth noting that Japanese enterprises are increasingly expressing interest in investing in Zambia's energy, mining, infrastructure, manufacturing, tourism, health, agriculture, agro-processing and science and technology sectors. There is enough space in the energy sector, especially off-grid electricity generation and alternative energy sources, for companies to come onboard. This investment is key to achieving Zambia's industrial-

ization agenda.

I also wish to appeal to the Japanese small and medium-sized enterprises to find a niche in the Zambian economy and establish business partnerships. Various crops that are in demand such as coffee, soy beans, tobacco, nuts, moringa, wheat, honey and livestock are abundant in the country. There is also potential for partnerships and growth in many other sectors. The Zambia mission

in Japan is available for consultations and facilitation of business and tourism visits to Zambia.

The ongoing economic growth demonstrates that Zambia is on a positive economic path. The acceleration of socioeconomic development depends on enhanced economic and bilateral cooperation and continued investment inflows.

Zambia awaits you!

Zambia is blessed with abundant natural resources and a growing population that provides a solid human resource base.

Educational efforts heighten solidarity

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

On this auspicious occasion, the 54th anniversary of the independence 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.

I am very impressed to see Zambia continuing to make steady strides as a peaceful, independent nation. Our association is based on the founding philosophy of the ECC Foreign Language Institute, the charter body of the fellowship: "It is our goal, through the teach-

ing of foreign languages, to contribute to the development 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." We pray for the continued progress of your country and the peace and happiness of all the people of Zambia.

I hope through working together to promote bilateral friendship and mutual understanding, ties between the Republic of Zambia and Japan continue to grow. The Republic of Zambia left an everlasting impres-

sion on Japan when its athletes entered the National Stadium for the closing ceremony of the Olympics on Oct. 24, 1964, the same day the newly independent nation of Zambia was formed. We hope to foster stronger ties between Japan and Zambia in the lead-up to the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

It is the greatest pleasure for our association to serve the needs of the people of Zambia, even in the smallest ways. With heartfelt wishes for an ever-brighter future, the association and the ECC Group of Schools will continue to make efforts in hopes of strengthening and increasing the ties of friendship between our two nations and throughout the world, with the ultimate objective of eliminating the great human tragedies of war, poverty and disease.

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

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