

## Angola | Angola National Day Special

## A key player in African peace and security

Rui Orlando Ferreira de Ceita da Silva Xavier  
AMBASSADOR OF ANGOLA



On this auspicious occasion of the 43rd Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Angola, I avail myself of this opportunity to, on behalf of the government and people of the Republic of Angola, convey our heartfelt greetings and deep appreciation to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the government and people of Japan for their courtesies, cooperation and goodwill toward Angola.

I also would like to take this opportunity to extend my warm congratulations to all Angolan nationals living, working and studying in Japan. Today, we celebrate our National Day with more hope for a better future. On this momentous day, we pay deep reverence to the many valiant Angolans who have paid the ultimate sacrifice during the long and arduous struggle for independence that culminated in the birth of Angola as a sovereign state on Nov. 11, 1975.

Angola at 43 has made great strides, particularly after rising from the rubble of a devastating and violent 27-year-long civil war that ended in 2002. Elections were held in August 2017, resulting in a peaceful transition of power in Angola



President of the Republic of Angola H.E. Joao Manuel Goncalves Lourenco

with the election of H.E. Joao Manuel Goncalves Lourenco as the new president. Based on its own experience with conflict resolution and national reconciliation, Angola has been playing a key role in the preservation of peace and security in the South African Development Community and the Great Lakes Region. According to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, Angola's gross domestic product grew from \$12.49 billion in 2002 to \$197.89 billion in 2018. Likewise, life expectancy in Angola went from 49 years in 2002 to 60 years in 2018. The Angolan government will not rest on its laurels; it



President Joao Manuel Goncalves Lourenco speaks with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Masahisa Sato in Luanda in September 2017.

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will continue to work to improve the livelihood of the Angolan people.

#### Relations with Japan

Japan and Angola have nurtured warm and friendly relations since the two countries established diplomatic ties in September 1976. Since then, the two countries have been exchanging high-level visits aimed at giving these ties a more strategic nature, developing a fruitful dialogue on numerous issues of common interest and exploring new horizons of political, economic, technical, educational and cultural cooperation. The recent visit to Japan by Minister of External Affairs H.E.

Manuel Domingos Augusto is a testament to the existing friendly relations between our two countries.

We value Japan's efforts and contributions to the development of Africa, particularly through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process, as well as the Japanese government's push for the private sector to invest in Africa. Angola has abundant natural resources, including petroleum, natural gas, phosphates, iron ore, copper, zinc, lead, manganese, gold, bauxite, gemstones and more. These resources, coupled with its economic diversification strategy, improving business environment and a growing young population, offers a promising outlook for Japanese companies.

Having just arrived in Japan and being profoundly impressed by the strength and depth of the bilateral relations between Angola and Japan, I am very optimistic about the growing interaction between the private sectors of both nations and will strive to have more Japanese companies and tourists venturing into Angola.

Let me conclude by wishing prosperity upon the friendly people of Japan and highlighting that Angola is always open to Japanese businesspeople and tourists.

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



The Black Rocks are a series of mysterious rock formations in Pungo Andongo, Malanje province.

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Located on the Atlantic coast, Luanda is the capital and largest city in Angola.

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