

Kenya National Day Special

Partnership and economic growth nurtured

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AMBASSADOR OF KENYA



Dec. 12 marks the 56th Independence Anniversary of the Republic of Kenya. Accordingly, on this auspicious occasion, I wish to convey on behalf of the government and the people of Kenya

residing in Japan, warm greetings and best wishes to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the government and friendly people of Japan.

At the onset, please allow me to once again convey on behalf of the government

and people of Kenya our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who lost their lives in the September and October typhoons.

Japan has been a crucial, reliable and strategic development partner for Kenya over the last 56 years, with our bilateral cooperation being anchored on five key pillars of economic infrastructure and private sector development; agriculture; the environment; water and sanitation; and human resource development and health. This partnership is in tandem with our national economic blueprint, Kenya Vision 2030.

Our deepening relations were clearly demonstrated during this year's Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development. Kenya successfully hosted four side events on the blue economy,

African diaspora, the International Conference on Population and Development 25 (ICPD25) and a business forum, in addition to a country exhibition that attracted strong Japanese participation. Subsequent bilateral meetings between President Uhuru Kenyatta and the prime minister further strengthened our mutual partnership and collaboration. In less than two months, the president returned to Japan for the enthronement of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito on Oct. 22. We congratulate the government and the people of Japan for the successful ushering in of the new Reiwa Era.

Since 2008, Kenya has been implementing the Kenya Vision 2030, an economic blueprint that envisages transforming Kenya into a globally competitive, industrialized and prosperous nation.

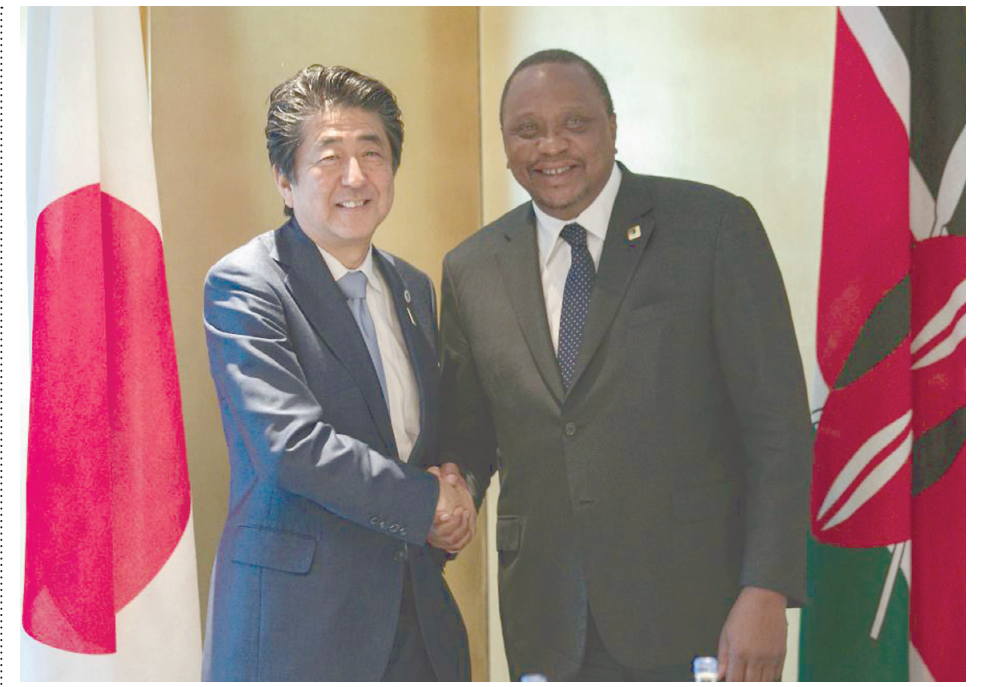
Japan's government has been supporting the implementation of key flagship projects of Vision 2030 that includes development of quality infrastructure such as the expansion and modernization of the port of Mombasa and its allied infrastructure, including the special economic zone (SEZ) in Dongo Kundu. The port of Mombasa is regarded as the gateway to Eastern Africa, serving a region of over a dozen countries, mostly landlocked. The government officially launched Dongo Kundu SEZ in October and Phase I is expected to be ready by 2023. Once completed, it will serve as the regional logistics, industrial and commercial hub for the region. Geothermal power development at Olkaria is another landmark project. With an installed capacity of 700 megawatts of geothermal power,

Kenya tops in Africa and was ranked eighth globally in 2018.

The launch of the 310-megawatt Lake Turkana Wind Power project in July, Africa's largest wind power farm, placed Kenya at over 3,000 megawatts installed capacity. This will go a long way in fulfilling Kenya's quest for 100 percent green energy by 2020 and spur Kenya's industrialization process.

Nairobi, being a United Nations headquarters, continues to attract numerous conferences of international repute. In 2019, Kenya hosted seven major international conferences, most notably ICPD25 from Nov. 12 to 14 and the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States) Summit from Dec. 9 to 10. With such credentials, Kenya has continued to be a strong advocate of rule-based international systems. Indeed, since admission to the U.N., Kenya's commitment to the principles and ideals of the organization has been resolute and consistent, particularly on matters of peace and security, sustainable development, global environmental and climate change issues. Kenya believes strongly that sustainable development, which is humanity's aspiration, can only be achieved when there is peace and security for all. Similarly, peace and security will be at risk in any situation where development is not inclusive and sustainable.

Kenya therefore seeks the support and vote of each and every member of the U.N. family to enable her to serve as a non-permanent member of the U.N. Security Council (UNSC), for the 2021 to 2022 period. On Aug. 21, Kenya was formally endorsed as the African Union's sole candidate for the



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe with President Uhuru Kenyatta on Aug. 28 during The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Yokohama EMBASSY OF KENYA

UNSC seat, whose elections will be conducted in June 2020. Kenya's Global Campaign is anchored in its 10-point agenda.

Building bridges, peacekeeping missions in over 40 countries and support operations, as well as regional peace and security make up the first three points. Kenya is also committed to safety on multiple levels, with four points dedicated to regional peace and security; countering terrorism and prevention of violent extremism; women, peace and security; and youth empowerment.

Additionally, Kenya seeks lasting solutions for individuals displaced by serious and indiscriminate threats to life and livelihood as part of its humanitarian action tenet and has hosted over 600,000 refugees;

its justice, human rights and democracy point follows the same vein.

In the hope of working toward a greener world and as host of the U.N.'s Environmental Programme, Kenya plans to apply its experience gained from this position to its environment and climate change agenda and create a new sense of momentum.

The final point on the agenda aims to continue working as a leader in promoting and working to achieve the U.N.'s sustainable development goals.

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



The 310-megawatt Lake Turkana Wind Power project is the largest wind farm in Africa.

EMBASSY OF KENYA

Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Kenya
on the Anniversary of
Their Independence



from the president and staff of
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