

# Sudan National Day Special

## Progress continues on road to peace, justice and freedom for all

**YAHIA ABDELGALIL MAHMOUD KHALIL**  
AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE OF SUDAN



It is my great honor to express my sincere, heartfelt and respectful greetings, along with my best wishes to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress

Masako, the imperial family, the government and friendly people of Japan on the occasion of the New Year, 2020. It also gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest felicitations to the staff and readers of the well-respected and distinguished newspaper, The Japan Times, wishing them good health, happiness and prosperity.

I avail myself of this opportunity, on behalf of my colleagues, to congratulate our compatriots, the Sudanese community in Japan, on the New Year and on this auspicious occasion of the 64th anniversary of the independence of Sudan.

I am very much privileged to serve my nation in this great country and am blessed to have had the unique opportunity to witness the historical and internationally attended event of the enthronement of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito.

While celebrating the 64th anniversary

of the independence of Sudan, the courageous struggle and the tremendous sacrifices offered by Sudanese people in pursuing their national independence is recalled with pride. The whole world was watching the revolution of December 2018 that manifested in the unwavering call by Sudan's people for democracy, peace, justice, transparency and civil rule. National awareness led to the dismissal of military and unpopular regimes in 2019. The magnitude and persistence of this popular revolution captured global attention as people witnessed the spirit of the Sudanese in their firm determination and willingness for a new page in the nation's history.

On Aug. 17 the Forces of Freedom and Change and the former Transitional Military Council signed a historical document that set in motion a democratic transformation in Sudan and the establishment of a transitional three-year, civilian-led government headed by Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok.

In accordance with this document, the transitional government adopted a program designed for addressing urgent revolutionary concerns. Priorities include remedying the economic crisis; nullifying laws restricting public freedoms and achieving legal reform to guarantee judicial independence and the supremacy of law; assuring the neutrality and independence of governmental institutions; and combat-

ing corruption and arranging for fair and transparent public elections. They also include convening a national constitutional conference to discuss issues of governance and relations between the capital and the different provinces.

Such a program must also address societal issues. Key areas include enhancing women's rights in social, political and economic fields, and ensuring their fair representation; looking at the role of youth and boosting their opportunities; and playing an effective role in social welfare in the provision of health care, education and housing services, as well as ensuring protection of the environment and biodiversity.

Just as important is balancing foreign policy to secure national interests and improve foreign relations based on independence and mutual interests and safeguard national sovereignty, security and borders. We are working toward incorporating such a program in light of the termination of war and accomplishing comprehensive and sustainable peace.

In this new era committed to democracy, peace, justice and respect for human rights, we are confident that our development partners, including Japan, will spare no efforts in supporting the transitional government in its endeavors to respond to aspirations to rebuild a democratic, stable and prosperous Sudan.

Due to variations in climate conditions, Sudan is a rich country in terms of various untapped resources, including minerals, agriculture, livestock, wildlife and forestry. Moreover, Sudan has potential as an amazing destination for tourists who are interested in the marvelous antiquities of the black pharaoh of the kingdoms of Kush and Meroe.

Sudan and Japan have maintained friendly and cordial relations, following excellent coordination at different international forums. Both countries are exerting considerable efforts to promote economic, social and cultural exchange and widening

the scope of coordination and consultation.

It is worth mentioning that Japan was among the friendly countries that witnessed the signing of constitutional documents last August in Khartoum. Japan also generously invited Sudan to participate in the extraordinary Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa and the Neighboring Region at the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Yokohama on Aug. 29.

In conclusion, I would like to express our deep gratitude and appreciation for the role played by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). JICA con-

tinues to spearhead Japanese assistance efforts to Sudan through projects and activities that focus on areas covering the consolidation of peace through fulfillment of basic human needs; promoting the establishment of development models and improving the skills and capabilities of governmental organizations in the fields of health, water sanitation and vocational training; and industry diversification.


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



People celebrate the first anniversary of the uprising that led to topple President Omar al-Bashir, in Atbara in River Nile state on Dec. 19. AFP/JJI

**Congratulations to the People of the Republic of the Sudan on the Occasion of Their National Day**

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JAPAN TOBACCO INC.

JT Bldg., 2-1, Toranomon 2-Chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-8422, JAPAN  
Phone: (03) 3582-3111 Fax: (03) 5572-1441 URL: <http://www.jt.com>