Malawi National Day Special

Natural beauty, unique wildlife await visitors

GRENENGER K.M. BANDA AMBASSADOR OF MALAWI



July 6 is a special day when Malawians celebrate their Independence Day. remembering the day Malawi gained self-rule in 1964. At that time. Malawi was the 31st African nation to become independent from colonial rule.

From Independence Day, Malawi inherited numerous challenges, most notable as a newly born nation, was to find and seal her own bilateral relations with regional and international countries. Japan, among others, was one of the first countries to establish bilateral relations with Malawi. A historic event happened in Japan during my tour of duty as Malawi's ambassador on Oct. 22, 2019, when His Majesty Emperor Naruhito was enthroned as Japan's 126th emperor, marking the new Reiwa Era. With the trust and confidence the head of state had, he nominated me to represent the Republic of Malawi during this historic enthronement ceremony. I am therefore, thankful to the emperor and empress, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the people of Japan for their continued hospitality.

Acting on the orders of the constitutional court, on June 23, Malawians held new presidential elections after the court nullified the May 21, 2019, presidential and parliamentary general elections, which the court found marred with irregularities. Malawi is indeed the "Warm Heart of Africa" and Malawians

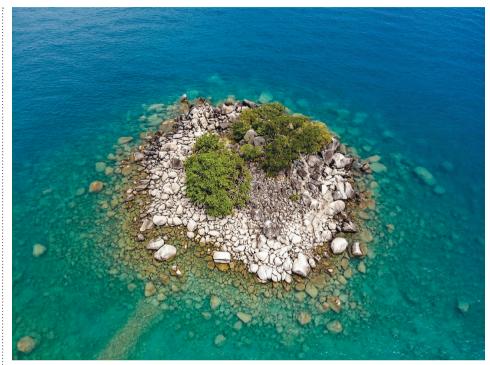
peacefully exercised their democratic right to elect Rev. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera as their sixth president of the Republic.

Malawi is one of the smallest countries in Africa, but it is home to a wide and diverse range of wildlife, making it the ideal country to visit for exciting safari adventures and exploration. The country has lots of surprises to offer to tourists, such as diverse landscapes that include the impressive Mount Mulanje and the Nyika Plateau where people can enjoy the grasslands and game. Natural environments host mammals, such as hippos in rivers, while various antelope species are commonly spotted in forest and game reserves. Visitors to these nature reserves can see bushbucks, grey duiker, kudu, grysbok, reedbuck, klipspringer, elephants, lions, leopards, giraffes, buffalos and black rhinos, as well as a bird sanctuary with a population

of 650 species. Nile crocodiles can be spotted in all major rivers such as the Shire River.

Lake Malawi is an extremely special place where visitors can enjoy all kinds of activities such as hiking, kayaking, scuba diving and snorkeling. The calm and clear waters and the tropical climate make Malawi the perfect beach holiday to visit year round. Lake Malawi is renowned for marine life where more than 1,000 fish species live, with the largest fish family being the colorful cichlid.

In conclusion, as Malawi celebrates the 56th anniversary of its Independence Day, the country offers visitors a safari that they will not regret in the slightest. While there. try out the famous and delicious local meal — *nsima*, which is made from ground corn and usually served with vegetables, roasted meat and fish.



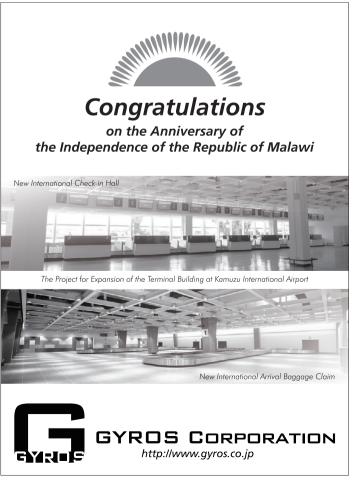
Lake Malawi is the fourth-largest freshwater lake in the world. DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, MALAWI

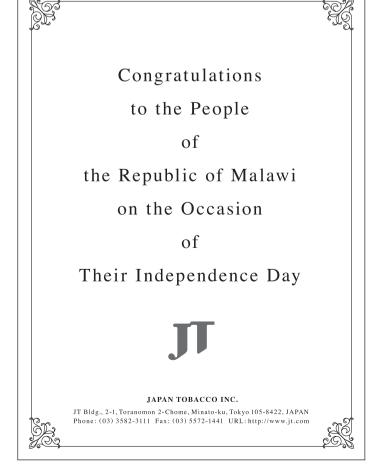


Above: Elephants roam in Liwonde National Park in southern Malawi. Below: A hippo and birds on Shire River bank DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM.



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Congratulations

to the People of the Republic of Malawi on the Anniversary of Their Independence



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