

South Africa National Day Special

Strong, equitable relations continue to thrive

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AMBASSADOR OF SOUTH AFRICA



On April 27, South Africans celebrate their 27th anniversary of the establishment of a free, democratic, non-racial, nonsexist and prosperous South Africa. It was on April 27, 1994, that

South Africans proclaimed for the world to know, that they shall be the custodians of democracy and human dignity. This year, South Africans celebrate this historic milestone of their national day against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has claimed the lives of thousands of South Africans and continues to do so. Nevertheless, the Rainbow Nation refuses to succumb to the pains caused by this scourge.

We celebrate our Freedom Day faced by various economic challenges, namely high unemployment, an economic downturn and increased poverty. However, South Africans believe they will be victorious through their collective efforts to build back the economy and build a country that is better for all its citizens.

We celebrate our national day with all our partners globally. Among those in the forefront are the government and citizens of Japan. The long-established bilateral relations between South Africa and Japan have never been as strong as at this moment. Faced by the COVID-19 challenges that negatively impacted our nations, Japan and South Africa need to activate trade and investment, economic growth and job security for both our countries.

We are convinced that working together as partners, South Africa, Japan and the African continent we will achieve the goal

of building an equitable world order. As members of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development and the Group of 20, we shall remain strong in our endeavors to ensure the equal distribution of the world's resources.

South Africa celebrates its national day by recommitting itself to the priorities of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan as articulated by H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa. South Africa also remains committed to the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the United Nations sustainable development goals.

South Africa is and has been home to many personalities who have represented and continue to represent the cultural diversity and harmony of the country situated on the most southern tip of the African continent. This year we are celebrating the legacy of Charlotte Maxeke under the theme "The Year of Charlotte Maxeke: the Meaning of Freedom under COVID-19." This year marks the 150th anniversary of her life as human rights campaigner. She and other selfless women of her generation fought against oppression at a time when such defiance



Namaqualand is an arid region in western South Africa that offers visitors colorful wild flowers in spring, scenic hiking trails and spectacular natural beauty.

was met with unrelenting force. Our history abounds with selfless patriots who paved the way for a democratic and free South Africa.

South Africa is about to embark on a

massive vaccination program. Vaccines save lives and represent our best chance to return to our normal way of life. Let us continue to fight the virus while striving for greater inclusion and social cohesion.

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



Cape Town sits against the backdrop of Table Mountain.

KOMATSU

Celebrating

**Freedom Day:
April 27, 2021**

Honoring the anniversary
of South Africa's
first democratic elections
in 1994.

Congratulations

*on the Anniversary of
the Freedom Day of
the Republic of South Africa*

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Mitsubishi Corporation

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