

Mozambique National Day Special

Celebrating 46 years of independence and economic development

JOSE MARIA MORAIS
AMBASSADOR OF MOZAMBIQUE



On this auspicious occasion, I have the honor, on behalf of the government and people of Mozambique and the Mozambican community residing in Japan, to extend our warmest and best wishes to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, and to Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and the

government and people of Japan.

As we celebrate Mozambique's independence, we pay tribute to the founders of our nation, who fought heroically for our independence. We take pride in their achievements, cherish the accomplishments of the present and reaffirm our determination for the future, working for the socioeconomic development of the country.

After 46 years, the Republic of Mozambique is facing the future with confidence, continuing its path to development, improving the lives of its people, strengthening its institutions and maturing as a democratic nation. To ensure sustainable socioeconomic development, the government has

chosen the maintenance and consolidation of peace and stability as a central priority of its actions and identified employment creation, poverty reduction and greater economic competitiveness as important measures to achieve the inclusive development that benefits the entire population.

However, while following this path, it became a victim of terrorist activities and violent extremism in some districts of the northern province of Cabo Delgado, which had significant social and economic consequences. Friendly countries and the international community have shown their solidarity with the government of Mozambique and its people, combining efforts to

contain and eradicate these subversive and criminal activities with other intervention aimed at promoting development and prosperity, and contributing to the triumph of the ideals of peace, security, stability and development.

Japan has been a reliable and strategic development partner for Mozambique for more than 44 years, with a comprehensive

program of cooperation with important development initiatives and strategic investments. Our bilateral relations are strong, as the successful visit to Mozambique from Dec. 9 to 10 of Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi has demonstrated. We are committed to building a firm, stable and long-term strategic relationship with Japan, bringing more prosperity to our partnership,

along with increased investment and growth in trade relations.

Finally, I wish to express deep gratitude to our corporate bodies and The Japan Times for their sponsorship and publication of this message. To my fellow compatriots, I extend my congratulations on the occasion of the 46th anniversary of the independence of Mozambique.

Further prosperity through unity and cooperation

MASAMI IJIMA
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-MOZAMBIQUE
BUSINESS FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



On behalf of the Japan-Mozambique Business Friendship Association, I am delighted to extend my warmest congratulations to the government and people of the Republic of Mozambique

on the auspicious occasion of the 46th anniversary of their national day.

In the face of numerous challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic since early 2020, the unity and cooperation of the international community is clearly important.

In light of the diplomatic bond between Mozambique and Japan, Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi visited Maputo last December to pay a courtesy call on H.E. President Filipe Nyusi, further enhancing the relationship. While the global outlook

remains uncertain, I am confident that both our nations will agilely jump any hurdles through continued, strong international cooperation and solidarity.

As chairman of the Japan-Mozambique Business Friendship Association, I sincerely hope we will see all of our activities return to normal very soon, and look forward to help-

ing to promote even stronger ties and economic relations between our two countries in this ever-changing business environment.

I send my best wishes for the prosperity of Mozambique and the esteemed Mozambican people, and for the further strengthening of this bilateral relationship at the private-sector level.

Deepening bilateral support for African growth

JUNZO YAMAMOTO
MOZAMBIQUE LIASON, JAPAN-AFRICAN
UNION PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP
LEAGUE



I would like to express my sincere congratulations to the Republic of Mozambique on the 46th anniversary of its independence.

As a member of the Japan-AU Parliamentary Friendship Association in charge of Mozambique, I have visited the country several times and have had many discussions with visiting dignitaries, making efforts to develop relations between our two countries.

In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, Minister of Foreign Affairs Toshimitsu Motegi visited Mozambique in December last year, and we exchanged letters concerning three grant aid projects worth approximately ¥2.4 billion.

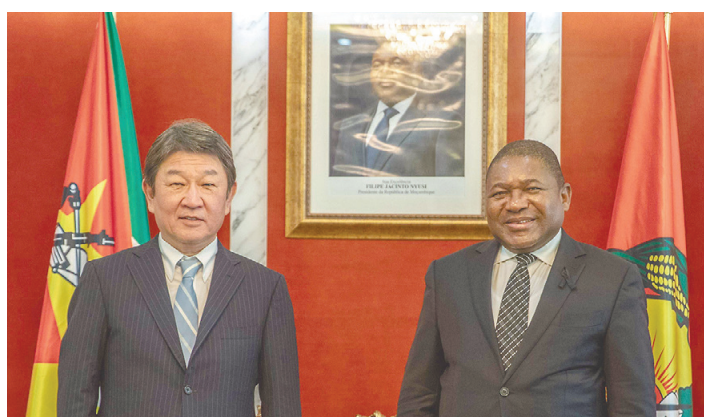
Next year, the eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development will be held in Tunisia, and I would like to continue to support the development of African coun-

tries, including Mozambique.

In Mozambique and elsewhere in Africa, although the spread of COVID-19 has been controlled to a greater extent than on other continents, it is necessary to stop COVID-19 at all costs for the success of the conference, and for this reason it is important to secure a supply of the vaccine worldwide and vaccinate as early as possible.

Mozambique is a very special country to me as we have long had private-sector exchanges with the city of Matsuyama, Ehime Prefecture, my hometown, and I am determined to do my best to develop our bilateral relations even further.

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




Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi poses with Mozambique President Filipe Nyusi during his visit in December. EMBASSY OF MOZAMBIQUE

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