

South Africa striving for greater inclusion, social cohesion

By **Lulama Smuts Ngonyama**
Ambassador of South Africa

On April 27, South Africans celebrate their 27th year of establishing a free, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist 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.



Lulama Smuts Ngonyama

South Africa is a constitutional democracy, based on the supremacy of the Constitution. The Constitution is widely acknowledged, not only as one of the most globally acclaimed and progressive constitutions but also as the most transformative, with its primary concern being to facilitate change in political, economic and social relations in South Africa.

The year 2021 presents a significant landmark in the creation of a constitutional democracy in South Africa. It marks various important milestones in our democracy, including commemorating the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution into law. The commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Constitution will extend beyond 2021 into 2022, as the Constitution's legal entry into force will be marked on Feb. 4, 2022.

This year, South Africans celebrate this historical 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 pain caused by this scourge. South Africa is about to embark on a 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.

We celebrate our Freedom Day while facing various economic chal-

lenges, namely high unemployment, an economic downturn and increased poverty levels. However, South Africans believe they will be victorious through their collective efforts of building back the economy and building a country that is better for all its citizens.

We celebrate our National Day with all our partners worldwide. Amongst 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 they are at this moment. Faced with the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic that negatively impacted the economies of both countries, Japan and South Africa need to activate trade and investment, economic growth and job security for both our countries.

We are convinced that by working together as partners, South Africa, Japan and the African Continent will achieve the goal of

building an equitable world order. As members of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) and the Group of 20 (G20) countries, we shall remain strong in our endeavors of ensuring the equal distribution of the world's resources.

South Africa celebrates its National Day 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 Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

South Africa is and has been home to many personalities who represented and continue to represent the cultural diversity and harmony of the country situated on the 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 Charlotte Maxeke's life as a human rights activist. She and other selfless women of her generation fought against oppression at a time when such defiance was met with unrelenting force. Our history abounds with selfless patriots who paved the way for a democratic

and free South Africa.

Of particular importance is that South Africa's foreign policy is guided by the Constitution and its founding principles. Hence, South Africa's foreign policy is based on the commitment to the promotion of human rights, the rule of law and the promotion of democracy; a commitment to justice and international law in the conduct of relations between

states and a commitment to international peace and internationally agreed-upon mechanisms for the resolution of conflicts based on a multilateral approach.

In this regard, we call upon the international community to join us in commemorating this milestone and partner with us as we strengthen our constitutional democracy going forward.



Courtesy of South African Embassy

A winery in South Africa, one of the main wine exporting countries in the world

Congratulations
to the People of the Republic of South Africa
on the 27th Anniversary of Freedom Day



Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association
31-1 Eitai 2-chome, Koto-ku, Tokyo
TEL: 03-5646-2382 FAX: 03-5646-2652

HANWA samancor^{CR}

Run up to HANWA 2030
Challenge to step into the Unknown beyond the present

Congratulations from Japan
to the people of the Republic of South Africa
on the 27th anniversary of Freedom Day

HANWA
<https://www.hanwa.co.jp>
阪和興業株式会社
Ferro Alloy Team TEL. +81-3 (3544) 2526 FAX. +81-3 (3544) 2495

Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of South Africa
on the 27th Anniversary of
Freedom Day

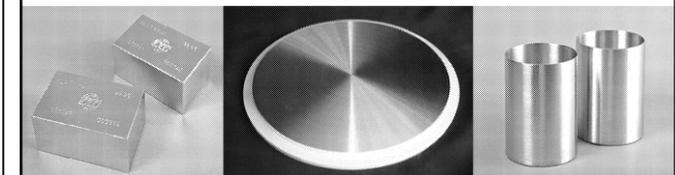


FUJI BUSSAN CO., LTD.

Make the legacy of the sea and earth

<http://www.fuji-bussan.com/>

Congratulations
to the people of the Republic of South Africa
on the 27th Anniversary of
Freedom Day



A Gift from the Universe
Precious Metals Support Our Daily Life
Across the Age...
at the Leading Edge of Technology

KFK **FURUYA METAL CO., LTD.**
MSB-21 Minami Otsuka Bldg., 2-37-5 Minami Otsuka, Toshima-ku,
Tokyo, 170-0005 Japan TEL: +81-3-5977-3388

FURUYA METAL KOREA CO., LTD.
3rd Floor, Dongam Bldg., 13, Gangnam-daero 47-gil, Seocho-gu,
Seoul, 06729, Korea TEL: +82-2-6121-0277

FURUYA METAL AMERICAS INC.
Waumbec Mill, Suite 4012 250 Commercial Street, Manchester,
NH 03101 United States TEL: +1-603-518-7723

<https://www.furuyametals.co.jp/english/>