

Reception to Celebrate His Majesty the Emperor's Birthday (5 March 2025)

2025/03/05

On 05 March 2025, Ambassador Asazuma hosted the reception to celebrate His Majesty the Emperor's 65th birthday at Mercure Hotel in Windhoek.

The event was attended by Namibian government dignitaries such as Hon. Dr. Paya Mushelenga, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Hon. Faustina Calle, Deputy Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, Hon. Esther Muinjangu, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Service, Hon. Heather Mwiza Sibungu, Deputy Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Hon. Modestus Amutse, Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Hon. Berdannet Jagger and Hon. Royal Johan Kxao !Uiloloo, Deputy Ministers of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, Mr. Johannes !Gawaxab, Governor of the Bank of Namibia, Regional Governors and many other government representative, diplomatic corps, business, academia, cultural, sports, media figures.

In his remarks, Ambassador Asazuma expressed his heartfelt condolences to the family and the people of Namibia on the passing away of the first President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr. Sam Nujoma, on 8 February. Ambassador further stated that despite the geographical distance between Japan and Namibia, the bilateral relations between the two countries are strong. He further stated that Japan has so far provided a total of 24.71 Billion Japanese yen (≈ 30 Billion Namibian Dollars) in assistance. Ambassador touched upon the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9), which is scheduled to be held in Yokohama in August this year, and expressed his expectation of bilateral relations to further progress. In conclusion, Ambassador said that this year marks the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Namibia, as well as the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Japanese Embassy in Namibia and would like to further promote exchanges not only in the political and economic spheres, but also in the cultural and sporting spheres.

The guest of honour Hon. Dr. Peya Mushelenga, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, in his remarks said, Japan plays an immense role in the economic development of Namibia and Namibia values the longstanding bilateral cooperation. He further thanked the Government of Japan for providing US\$500,000 (about N\$10 million) as part of its humanitarian assistance to Namibia on the severe drought emergency. He also mentioned that Namibia and Japan relations continue to flourish and deepen, testified by his visit to Japan last year to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting, where he had a Namibia-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting. He concluded by calling upon on the Japanese businesspeople to continue exploring business opportunities, either by direct investment or joint ventures with Namibian business personalities.

A performance by Mr. IRIE Yosuke, a professional Shakuhachi player from Japan, took place during the ceremony.

A public information booth was set up in cooperation with the JICA Namibia office to introduce Japan's economic cooperation activities with Namibia, and the Japanese cultural booth run by the Embassy's offered sake tasting to the guests.



Photo1: Remarks by the Hon. Peya Mushelenga, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation



Photo2: Ambassador Asazuma and his wife welcoming the guest of Honor Hon. Dr. Peya Mushelenga, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation



Photo3,4: Ambassador Asazuma and guests



Photo5: Performance by Mr. Mr. IRIE Yosuke,
A professional Shaku-hachi Player from Japan



Photo6: Public Relations & Cultural Booth



Photo7,8: Japanese cuisine was served



Photo9: Japanese Sake was served