

# Senegal Independence Day Special

## A beacon of democracy in strategic African continent

**JEAN ANTOINE DIOUF**  
AMBASSADOR OF SENEGAL



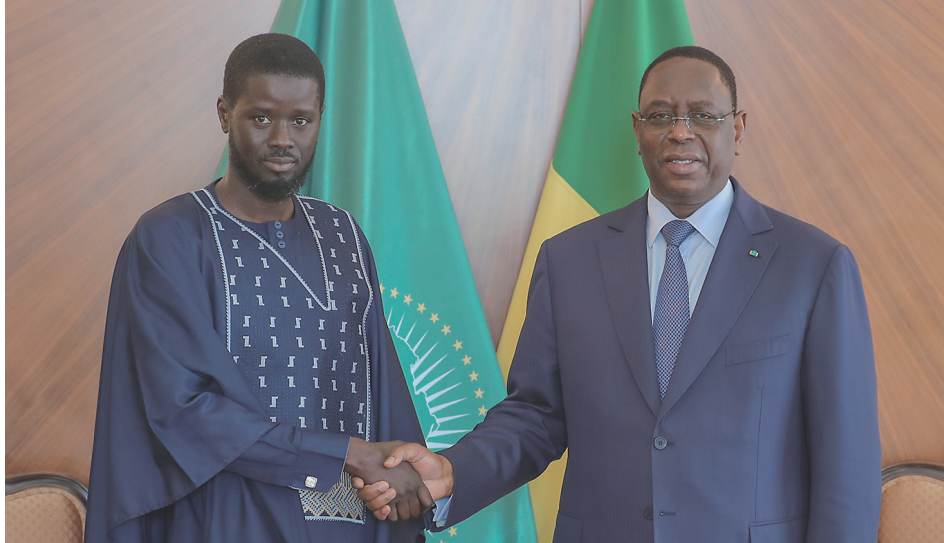
Today, the Republic of Senegal celebrates its 64th Independence Day. This milestone also reflects 64 years of Japan-Senegal diplomatic relations and friendship.

At the outset, I would like to reiterate my heartfelt wishes for peace, happiness and good health to His Majesty Emperor Naruhito and the imperial family, as well as to Japan's overall leadership and people. I am highly appreciative of Japan's strategic partnership as Senegal accelerates its resolute march toward development.

Japan rang in 2024 with a deadly earthquake that hit the Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa Prefecture on Jan. 1. On behalf of the President of the Republic His Excellency Bassirou Diomaye Diakharr Faye, the government and the people of Senegal, I would like to convey our compassion and friendship to the disaster-hit communities. In hailing Japan's outstanding resilience and fortitude, particularly the people in the affected areas, I also express my profound admiration.

On the auspicious occasion of Senegal's Independence day, I would like to congratulate the members of the Senegalese community living in Japan. They have been instrumental in further raising awareness of the journey of Senegal as a nation endowed with its unparalleled culture, and its natural and human resources that have fueled one of the most stable democracies in Africa.

Indeed, Senegal unflinchingly stands as a country of peace and stability but most



**Bassirou Diomaye Diakharr Faye (left) is Senegal's fifth president, replacing Macky Sall (right).**  
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outstandingly as a beacon of democracy in Africa. Successive Senegalese regimes' attachment to such core values as well as our solid sense of nationhood continue to constitute the strong pillars that maintain national stability regardless of multiple and daunting challenges.

Today, Senegal's democratic track record has been further bolstered following the fair, free and peaceful presidential election that took place on March 24. This election, which was commended by the international community, including regional and international observers, saw 19 candidates running after President H.E. Macky Sall decided not to run for a third term.

Eventually, the candidate of the leading opposition coalition, Faye, aged 44, won the election, becoming Senegal's fifth president in the country's third peaceful political handover.

As a major stakeholder on the African and world stages during the past few years,

Senegal will continue to further strengthen its constructive diplomatic action for revitalized multilateralism to build a more peaceful, just and equitable world.

Faye has stated that Senegal will remain a friendly country and the reliable ally of any partner that engages with it in virtuous, respectful and mutually productive cooperation.

These principles that have always guided our diplomacy are the bedrock of the friendship and cooperation between Senegal and Japan.

Since 1993, Japan and Africa established, through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process, a unique partnership covering various priority sectors for African development. More than three decades later, TICAD's overarching priority has been redefined, as strengthening the economic relations between Japan and the African countries is now top on the agenda.



Located in the new city of Diamniadio, the United Nations House, with its striking helical architecture, houses 34 U.N. agencies.  
EMBASSY OF SENEGAL

This new paradigm includes enhancing Japanese private investment in the continent with the mobilization of public and private financing of \$30 billion by 2025.

Such a move is saluted both by the Japanese and African private sectors, among other stakeholders. TICAD 9, which will take place in Yokohama from Aug. 20 to 22, 2025, will be a great opportunity to bring our partnership to even greater heights.

Against this backdrop, Senegal offers a wide range of opportunities to be captured by Japanese companies as it envisions being the gateway to Japanese direct investments in West Africa.

Thanks to its geographic position, Senegal, which belongs to the 350 million consumers ECOWAS integrated region, is at the crossroads of Africa, Europe and the Americas. In addition to the earlier mentioned political stability, Senegal is graced with a business-friendly environment thanks to several reforms, incentives, and massive infrastructure projects realized under the Plan for an Emerging Senegal.

These top-tier projects include, but are not limited to, the Bus Rapid Transit, which is the first 100% electric bus line in West Africa, and the Regional Express Train that links the Blaise Diagne International Airport of Diass to the new city of Diamniadio.

The city is home to an industrial park, data center, railway station, the United

**The Regional Express Train links Blaise Diagne International Airport and Diamniadio.**  
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Nations House, modern sports facilities and more.

Indeed, economic prospects in Senegal are even stronger thanks to the anticipated production of oil and gas by the end of 2024. This new era will catalyze a more robust economy that averaged an annual growth rate of 5.3% between 2014 and 2023 and 6.6% before COVID. The production of oil and gas from three natural gas fields should have a ripple effect on all other sectors and bolster the structural transformation of the Senegalese economy.

According to the African Development Bank's Macroeconomic Performance and Outlook, Senegal is second among the top 11 African countries expected to enjoy

strong performance this year and is projected to post 8.2% growth.

To conclude, I am pleased to invite the Japanese people to visit Senegal's pavilion during the 2025 World Expo in Osaka. I also urge the Japanese to attend the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games, the first to take place in Africa.

I would be remiss not to thank, heartfully, our partners, with a special mention to the sponsors for their continued and valuable support of this supplement.

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



Far left: Traditional Senegalese clothing features bright colors and animal prints. Dakar train station has a neoclassical art deco-inspired design and is classified as a national historical monument.  
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**Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Senegal on the Anniversary of Their Independence**

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