

Tanzania national day

Tanzania ready for further investment

Salome Thaddaus Sijaona  
AMBASSADOR OF TANZANIA

Today, April 26, 2014, we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of foundation of the United Republic of Tanzania — the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar. On this auspicious day, I would like to pay my most deep respect to the founders of the Union — the Father of the Nation, the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere; and the first President of Zanzibar, the late Abeid Amani Karume. I also wish extend my most heartfelt congratulations to all my fellow Tanzanians living in Japan and other countries under the accreditation of the Embassy of Tanzania in Japan, which include the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.



On behalf of the government, the people and the entire staff of the Tanzanian Embassy, I take this opportunity to express my sincere and deepest respect to Their Imperial Majesties, Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and to the distinguished members of the Imperial family and wish them good health and happiness.

In the same way, I convey my warm greetings to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and to the friendly people of Japan.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Tanzania and Japan in 1967, the bilateral relations have been stable and constantly expanding in all spheres, including political, economic, trade, social and cultural. The assistance extended to Tanzania by the Japanese government through overseas development assistance in areas such as roads and electricity infrastructure, agriculture, water

supply, health and education, as well as good governance has played a pivotal role in the economic and social development of the people of Tanzania.

Last year the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) was held in Yokohama and H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania participated. TICAD V was an example of the revitalization of the Japan-Africa relationship. During TICAD V Kikwete and Abe had the opportunity to meet and discuss ways of further advancing the relationship between Tanzania and Japan.

There is a common realization between our two countries of a need to move from the traditional donor-recipient relationship to that of two countries seeking the common goal of the betterment of the lives of their people hand in hand. The pledges made by Abe to the African continent are a signal that Japan is really committed to assist the African continent.

The success of TICAD V can be seen by the reinvigoration of Japanese involvement on the African continent, the climax of which was the visit to the three African countries of Cote d'Ivoire, Mozambique and Ethiopia by Abe.

Since the completion of TICAD V, there have been many exchanges of visits between our two countries, with Toshimitsu Motegi, Japan's economy minister, together with a powerful delegation from the private sector, visiting Tanzania in August 2013, and attending a Tanzania-Japan Business Forum in Dar es Salaam. Various high level officials from different sectors in



(Clockwise from above) Panoramic view of Ngorongoro Crater in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, a UNESCO World Heritage site in northern Tanzania; African leopards are commonly seen throughout Serengeti National Park, also a UNESCO World Heritage site in northern Tanzania; Safaris in the Serengeti attract many tourists; Mount Kilimanjaro, a dormant volcano in Tanzania, is the highest peak in Africa and the tallest free-standing mountain in the world.



The Masai traditional dance Adami, also referred as "the jumping dance" is performed during Eunoto, the coming of age ceremony for warriors.

On the political front, Tanzania continued to enjoy peace and political stability, while democracy continues to take root and basic freedoms, human rights and rule of law continued to be respected and observed. As an important milestone in expression of a true democracy, Kikwete in May 2012, created a national commission, which was mandated to collect public opinion on the review of the Constitution of Tanzania. Currently a special session of the parliament is in session reviewing the second draft of the constitution. Once this session is over the draft shall be sent back to the people through a referendum and if approved by the end of this year the United Republic of Tanzania will have a new Constitution, which we shall use in our general elections in 2015.

Economically, Tanzania continued sound performance despite the global economic downturns in 2011. The economy recorded a growth rate of 6.5 percent in 2013 compared with 6.8 percent in 2012, with the driving forces for growth being the mining, tourism and manufacturing sectors. The performance in investment was also good, whereby investment projects worth \$19.6 billion were registered in 2012 compared with \$7.1 billion the year before. The government continues to work to create an attractive business environment, including measures to reduce the cost of doing business, to attract both foreign and domestic investors.

However, the encouraging progress in Tanzania's macro-economic success did not reduce poverty significantly, because sectors which contributed to growth do not create employment opportunities for the majority, particularly those living in rural areas and relying mainly on agriculture. In addressing this challenge the government of Tanzania continues to give due attention to agricultural development promotion through implementation of "Kilimo Kwanza" (Agriculture First). Agriculture First aims at involving the private sector, development partners and small holder farmers in bringing a transformation in agriculture by resolving the issue of low productivity.

The importance of roads and other infrastructure that connect agricultural production areas to markets and industrial centers is part of our concern. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the government of Japan for their continued support in construction of road infrastructure, as well as in the agriculture sector.



As for investment opportunities, Tanzanian economy can absorb massive doses of investment in every conceivable area. Plenty of opportunities exist in sectors such as agriculture, energy, infrastructure, transportation, tourism, mining, manufacturing and services. The discovery of huge reserves of natural gas both onshore and offshore has heightened expectations of the country becoming a major gas producer.

The government has prepared several strategic plans to handle the huge foreign investment inflow expected in gas subsector projects, which include liquefied petroleum gas production, piped and compressed natural gas, fertilizers, petrochemical production, etc.

Regarding infrastructure, the government of Tanzania has developed policies and

legislation for the private sector to engage in building and operating roads and the energy infrastructure under Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT), Build-Own-Operate (BOO) and Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) systems.

As ambassador to Japan, I would like to see more Japanese investment in Tanzania, particularly in the areas highlighted above. Tanzania's comparative advantages as a premier investment destination include: a stable political environment; strong economic performance; unlimited investment opportunities; attractive investment incentives; a vibrant private sector; a pro-business government; a huge regional market, preferential access to some of the world's markets; and geographic location — as it borders the six landlocked countries of Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Zambia, Malawi and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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to the People  
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of  
Tanzania on  
the 50th Anniversary  
of  
Tanzania Union Day

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# Tanzania national day



The Zanzibar red colobus (above) is a species of monkey endemic to the main island of the Zanzibar Archipelago, off the coast of Tanzania (top). EMBASSY OF TANZANIA

## Tanzania welcomes tourists

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4  
Eastern DRC, which use Tanzanian territory for their international trade.

In the global arena, Tanzania continues to play an active role in regional and international bodies, including the United Nations, African Union, Southern Africa Development Cooperation (SADC), Great Lakes Region and East African Community (EAC). The government of Tanzania also remains committed to contributing to peace and security in Africa and the world.

I also warmly welcome Japanese tourists to visit Tanzania, which has surpassed being only a safari destination. Tanzania is a home to the world-renowned Serengeti National Park; Selous Game Reserve,

the biggest game reserve in the world; Ngorongoro Crater, the biggest unbroken crater in the world; Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa; Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika — the largest and the deepest lakes in Africa, respectively; and Zanzibar, the island of spices; to name only a few attractions.

Last, but not least, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the companies that volunteered to sponsor this National Day supplement. We highly value your contribution and cooperation as always. I also extend my gratitude to The Japan Times for offering me another opportunity of addressing their distinguished readers on this important occasion. Thank you very much and God bless you!

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