

Tanzania National Day Special

A democracy with high economic ambitions

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On behalf of the Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania in Japan, I wish to extend my most heartfelt congratulations to all my fellow Tanzanians and in particular to my fellow nation-

als living in Japan for celebrating the 57th anniversary of the union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

Also on behalf of the government of the United Republic of Tanzania, and on my own behalf, I take this opportunity to express my sincere and deepest respect to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, and to the distinguished members of the imperial family, and wish them good health and happiness.

In the same vein, I wish to convey my warm greetings to H.E. Yoshihide Suga, the prime minister of Japan, and to the friendly and brotherly people of Japan.

First and foremost, I would like to convey my most sincere appreciation for the solidarity shown by the government of Japan upon the sudden demise of H.E. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, the fifth president of the United Republic of Tanzania, which occurred on March 17.

I would also like to thank the government of Japan for the congratulatory message and good wishes conveyed to H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, the sixth president of the United Republic of Tanzania, who was sworn in on March 19.

Our Independence Day celebrations are occurring at a time when a new government has just successfully assumed office in a peaceful transition that is a sign of the maturity of our democratic system.

As you are all aware, the United Republic of Tanzania is the result of the union between Tanganyika and isles of Zanzibar. It was formed on April 26, 1964, when the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, the first president of the union and the late Abeid Amani Karume, the first president of Zanzibar, cordially decided to unite Tanganyika and the isles of Zanzibar to form the United Republic of Tanzania. Today we celebrate 57 years of this historic union.

A major milestone for Tanzania this year was its declaration as a middle-income country by the World Bank in July 2020, owing to our discipline in financial expenditure, consistent planning and willingness to make hard decisions that have improved our economic development and the livelihood of our people. This goal was achieved five years ahead of schedule.

The government has embarked on major strategic infrastructure projects with direct impact on the economy that will ensure Tanzania becomes a major force in the region. The Tanzania Railway Corp. is constructing a 2,561-kilometer standard gauge railway network that links Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Kigoma, Katavi and the neighboring countries of Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The project, worth over 7 trillion Tanzanian shillings, is being implemented in phases, with the first round covering 300 kilometers between Dar es Salaam and Morogoro nearly complete.

Another big ongoing project is the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere hydropower dam, which is expected to generate 2,115 megawatts. The hydroelectric dam, which is being built across the Rufiji River in eastern Tanzania, will be the fourth-largest in Africa, the ninth-largest in the world and the largest power station in East Africa. Construction began in 2019 and is expected to be completed in 2022. It will provide enough electricity to enable Tanza-

nia to become an industrialized economy by 2050.

Japan continues to be Tanzania's major partner in various sectors, including power and infrastructure, water, health and education. Due to the pandemic, we did not have any exchange of visits during the last year. We are looking to the upcoming eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development summit, which will be held in Tunisia in 2022, where we shall have the opportunity to further strengthen the already strong relations that exist between Japan and Africa, and Tanzania in particular.

The whole world is gripped with the pandemic caused by the coronavirus. Thousands of people around the world have lost their lives due to this virus. I would like to hail all who are on the front lines of the pandemic — health workers, volunteers and others — who are putting their lives at risk with their tireless efforts to save the lives of millions.

Once this outbreak is over, I hope to see many Japanese tourists traveling to Tanzania, the "Soul of Africa," to see the wonders bestowed upon it, such as Serengeti National Park, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, the "roof of Africa" Mount Kilimanjaro, the Selous Game Reserve and Zanzibar. This is to mention just a few of the attractions we have.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to all the sponsors of this year's national day supplement. We highly value their contribution. As always, I would like to extend my gratitude to The Japan Times for offering the embassy another opportunity to address its readers.

Finally, I would like to wish the government of Japan all the best in hosting the upcoming Olympics. I am sure the games will be a great success despite the ongoing pandemic.

Thank you very much and God bless

Tanzania, God bless Japan and God bless you all.

I wish you all the best during this challenging period. Please stay safe.

*Asanteni sana na karibuni Tanzania.
Arigatō gozaimashita.*

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



The section of the Tanzania Standard Gauge Railway between Dar es Salaam and Morogoro, currently under construction

Congratulations

*to the People of
the United Republic of Tanzania
on the Anniversary of
Their Union Day*

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