

# Tanzania National Day Special

## Nature brings tourists to 'The Soul of Africa'

**BARAKA H. LUVANDA**  
AMBASSADOR OF TANZANIA



Today we celebrate the 58th anniversary of the United Republic of Tanzania. On this day 58 years ago, the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, father of the nation and the first president of the united republic, and the late Abeid Amani Karume, the first president of Zanzibar, forged an exceptionally unique union of the former Tanganyika and the Isle of Zanzibar, forming the United Republic of Tanzania.

Let me, on behalf of the government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania, take this opportunity to express my sincere respect to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, and the distinguished members of the imperial family, and wish them good health and happiness. I also wish to convey my greetings to His Excellency Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and the friendly people of Japan.

Having become Tanzania's ambassador to Japan in December 2021, I am ready and determined to carry on where my predecessor left off in bolstering the friendly relations between our countries.

This year is yet another important year for the Japan-Africa partnership as we look forward to the eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8), which will be held in Tunisia in August. This will certainly provide an opportunity to further deepen the already strong relations between Japan and Africa generally, and between Japan and Tanzania in particular.

By and large, Japan continues to be Tanzania's major partner in various ways. The list would be rather long, but includes development partnerships in sectors such as infra-

structure development, power generation, water projects, mining, transport, health services, education and skills development, among others.

For instance, with help from the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the government of Tanzania successfully completed in December the upgrading into four lanes of the New Bagamoyo Road — the stretch from Morocco to Mwenge — as part of its strategy to decongest the city of Dar es Salaam. The road was inaugurated during a ceremony presided over by Her Excellency President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Japanese Ambassador to Tanzania Shinichi Goto.

Equally important, on Feb. 4, Japan and Tanzania co-signed the exchange of notes for two loan projects and one grant aid project. The loans are for supporting the improvement of an urban water facility in Zanzibar and the expansion of Arusha-Holili Road into a dual carriageway. The grant aid will help upgrade our inland ports, particularly Kigoma Port.

It is anticipated that the Arusha-Holili Road project will widen it into a dual carriageway, erect a new bridge at Kikafu and improve safety measures near the existing Kikafu Bridge, helping the area adjust to growing traffic and promote economic development and regional integration.

The Zanzibar water project will provide a safe and stable water supply in the Urban West region of Unguja Island, while the port project is expected build a new passenger terminal, refurbish the passenger wharf and improve access roads, thereby strengthening the Central Corridor by connecting Tanzania with Rwanda, Burundi and Congo.

It is also worth noting that Tanzania is celebrating its 58th anniversary with a sense of accomplishment and determination.

A 2,561-kilometer railway project aimed at linking Dar es Salaam with nine other regions and three countries — Rwanda, Burundi and Congo — has nearly completed

the 300-kilometer first phase between Dar es Salaam and Morogoro. Trials are expected to start by the end of June. In addition, the 2,155-megawatt Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project is more than halfway finished. It will be the largest by power output in East Africa, the fourth-largest in Africa and ninth-largest in the world once complete, supporting Tanzania's economic transformation initiatives by generating and supplying reliable electricity for both domestic and industrial use.

I therefore call upon Japanese Investors to come and invest in Tanzania. Tanzania's economy has continued to grow by more than 5% even during the difficult COVID-19 pandemic. We have abundant opportunities for investment in the sectors mentioned earlier, as well as in agriculture, tourism, financial services, manufacturing and real estate development, just to mention a few, and it is my earnest hope that many Japanese investors will seize the opportunity.

I should normally end by welcoming Japanese tourists to Tanzania, "The Soul of Africa," to enjoy the world heritage wonders that are found in Tanzania: the Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Crater and Mount Kilimanjaro — the roof of Africa — the Selous Game Reserve and the Spice Islands of Zanzibar, to name just a few. It is not surprising that Forbes has ranked Tanzania fourth among the 50 most beautiful

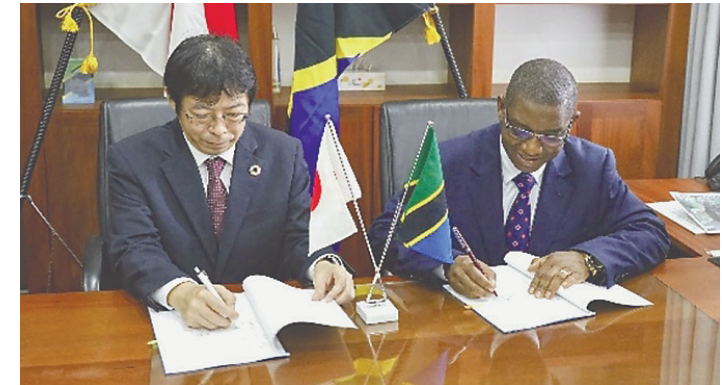


**Mount Kilimanjaro acts as a backdrop to a herd of elephants.** EMBASSY OF TANZANIA

countries in the world. As we learn how to live with COVID-19, our Japanese friends should not hesitate to decide where to go for maximum leisure.

And finally, it behooves me to express my deep appreciation to all those who volunteered to sponsor this year's National Day Supplement. I wish to thank The Japan Times for offering us, once again, this platform to reach out to such a wide clientele.

*Ahsanteni sana* (thank you).



**Japan International Cooperation Agency's chief representative, Naofumi Yamamura, and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Planning Emmanuel Tutuba sign an agreement.** EMBASSY OF TANZANIA

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

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


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