

Tanzania national day

Working for regional, worldwide stability

Salome Thaddaus Sijaona
AMBASSADOR OF TANZANIA

Today, the United Republic of Tanzania is commemorating the 47th anniversary of the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, which was established on April 26, 1964. On this occasion, I pay my deep respect to the founders of the union — the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, father of the nation, and the late Abeid Amani Karume, the first president of Tanzania. I also extend my heartfelt congratulations to all Tanzanian nationals living in Japan, conveying my best wishes for continued good health and success in the coming years.

On behalf of the government as well as the people of Tanzania and the entire staff of the Tanzania 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 H.E. Prime Minister Naoto Kan and to the friendly people of Japan. This memorable occasion is happening during a moment of sadness to the people of Japan. I offer my deepest and heartfelt condolences to all Japanese people for the immense loss of human lives and indescribable devastation, which happened as a result of the earthquake and tsunami disasters that struck Japan on March 11. People of Tanzania join the whole world to keep Japanese people in their thoughts and prayers, and to support them as they work toward the rehabilitation and reconstruction of their great country.

Touched by the destruction that occurred in the Tohoku region, the Tanzanian community in Japan and the embassy staff traveled to Natori City in Miyagi Prefecture to donate relief goods to disaster-stricken people and

offer them words of hope and encouragement. Japan has always been actively participating in humanitarian and disaster assistance around the world, and it deserved to be treated the same way. I am confident that under the leadership of Prime Minister Kan and the high spirit of Japanese people, which we truly admire and respect, lives of affected people will return to normal soon, and Japan will continue to be a better and safe place to live.

As we remember our national day, we reflect on our continued achievements both at home and in our relationship with the rest of the world. Let me take this opportunity to mention some of the achievements in the political, economic and social areas that Tanzania has made under the leadership of H. E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, president of the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as challenges that the country is facing.

On the political front, great progress has been made toward promoting democracy and good governance. Last year Tanzania conducted general elections in a democratic and peaceful way, and President Kikwete was re-elected for another five-year term.

In Zanzibar, the Government of National Unity (GNU) was formed after the elections, signifying the end of the political standoff between the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) and Civic United Front (CUF) parties, which have been holding equal strength for the past two decades. H.E. Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein (CCM) became the Presi-

dent of Zanzibar, while H.E. Seif Sharif Hamad (CUF) and H.E. Seif Iddi (CCM) were named as first vice president and second vice president, respectively. This is the successful outcome of the July 2010 referendum, which set the stage for the power-sharing deal between the two parties.

This is a special year for Tanzania as we are celebrating 50 years of the independence of Tanzania mainland (Tanganyika) on Dec. 9, 2011. For half a century Tanzania has survived as an independent, united, peaceful and stable country. That in itself is also a big achievement. Among important events that will take place in Tanzania this year is a review process of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania. This Review will provide a platform for the people of Tanzania to express opinions on the fundamental law that governs their lives and it represents a true expression of democracy.

In the economic area, the economy of Tanzania performed well in the past year, indicating that recovery from the effects of the global economic slowdown is well under way. Almost all sectors of the economy registered encouraging progress, with investment, trade and tourism sectors increasing. Gross domestic product grew by 7 percent while inflation declined to 5.6 percent by December 2010. The biggest challenge is to consolidate the gains, maintaining the momentum and doing better this year, as it is laid out in a number of key documents including MKUKUTA (National

Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty).

Tanzania is endowed with many natural resources such as minerals and other raw materials for manufacturing, apart from being strategically located to serve as the business hub of eastern, southern and central Africa. Its membership in regional economic communities such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and East African Community (EAC) is making the country an attractive investment destination. The government has further simplified investment regulations in order to attract investors from around the world and will continue to give due attention in improving the investment climate. This will only be possible through the improvement of the infrastructure to stimulate growth in the region and alleviate poverty.

Due to the fact that 80 percent of Tanzanians are directly employed in agriculture and that 95 percent of Tanzania's food is coming from agriculture, the government will continue to pursue with renewed vigor the implementation of the Kilimo Kwanza (Agriculture First) development strategy in order to attain food security and social economic development. The importance of roads and other infrastructures that connect agricultural production areas to markets and industrial centers is part of our concerns. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the government of Japan for their continued support in the construction of road infrastructure and also in the agri-



Culture in action: Masai men gather to perform a traditional dance. EMBASSY OF TANZANIA

culture sector.

On foreign policy issues, Tanzania has continued to play an active role in global affairs. The country has continued to actively participate in the activities of the United Nations and the African Union, in activities of the SADC as well as the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region, and in all affairs, including the integration process of the EAC. Apart from enjoying good relations with its neighbors in the region, Tanzania has always been actively involved to bring stability to the region as well as on the continent by promoting efforts to resolve conflicts, host refugees, and participate in peacekeeping missions in other African countries such as Sudan.

Tanzania continues to strengthen the existing bilateral relationship and cooperation with Japan under the leadership of President Kikwete. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations 45 years ago, bilateral trade

between the two countries has continued to rise and there is still a great potential in increasing it significantly. Joint efforts are being made to promote and broaden trade, investment and tourism between Tanzania and Japan. Japan has remained an important development partner to Tanzania, as it is demonstrated through the sustained Official Development Assistance (ODA) in critical areas such as infrastructure, agriculture, education, health, etc. Tanzania is committed to continue to actively participate and enhance its relationship with Japan through the TICAD process. After the successful ending of the 2nd TICAD Ministerial Follow-up meeting, which was held in Arusha, Tanzania, under the leadership of the then Minister of Foreign Affairs Katsuya Okada, in the same spirit, Tanzania is looking forward to participating in the 3rd Follow-up meeting, which is scheduled to be held in Dakar, Senegal, in early May.

I would like also to take this opportunity to warmly welcome Japanese tourists to visit Tanzania, which is truly a safari destination. Tanzania is a home of 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; Mount 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.

Last but not least, I would like to express my deep appreciation to 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 to address its distinguished readers on this important occasion. Thank you very much and God bless you!



Wildlife preservation: The Ngorongoro Conservation Area in the Crater Highlands of northern Tanzania is one of the natural habitats of the flamingo. EMBASSY OF TANZANIA

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on the Occasion
of
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Congratulations to the People of the United Republic of Tanzania on Their 47th Union Day



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