

Tanzania national day

Agricultural transformation will have significant impact on poverty

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AMBASSADOR OF TANZANIA

April 26 is the national day of the United Republic of Tanzania, an event to commemorate 48 years of the union of Tan-ganyika and Zanzibar. On this occasion, I have the honor to renew my humble 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 Zanzibar. On behalf of the government of the United Republic of Tanzania and on my own behalf, I take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all Tanzania nationals living in Japan, conveying my good wishes for happiness and continued success in the coming years.



I have the honor to avail myself to convey the reiterated warm greetings and deep respect of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, the entire government leadership as well as the people of Tanzania to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, to the distinguished members of the Imperial family, to Prime Minister H.E. Yoshihiko Noda and to the friendly people of Japan. I wish them good health and happiness.

A year has passed since the catastrophic Great East Japan Earthquake happened. I would like to take this opportunity to once again convey hope of recovery and reconstruction to the

Japanese people. I commend the efforts of the Japanese government to rebuild and revitalize the lives of the citizens in the affected area, as well as the economy in general. People of the world have much to learn from how the Japanese people managed to endure the suffering that the triple disasters have caused. Be assured that the United Republic of Tanzania, like the rest of the world, will continue standing by your side as you continue to rebuild your country.

This year marks 46 years of the diplomatic relationship between Tanzania and Japan. The existing cordial friendship and bilateral cooperation between the two countries has continued to strengthen year after year. There have been various efforts to promote and broaden trade, investment and tourism between Tanzania and Japan through the bilateral relationship as well as other avenues, including the Tokyo International Conference of African Development (TICAD) process. Japan remains an important development partner of Tanzania, as demonstrated through Japan's sustained official development assistance (ODA) in critical areas that are crucial to the attainment of the Tanzania government's social and economic objectives, including those related to poverty reduction, such as infrastructure, agriculture, education, health, etc.

In a special way, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the effective and efficient operations of ODA projects and programs in Tanzania under the

committed leadership of the recently retired President of JICA Madame Sadako Ogata, which have contributed to make the relationship between our two countries even stronger. Tanzania will remain committed to continue to actively participate and enhance this relationship during the tenure of the new JICA President Akihiko Tanaka. In the same way, the government of Tanzania reaffirms its commitment to work with the government of Japan during the time of the preparation of the forthcoming TICAD V summit to be held in Yokohama in May 2013, to ensure the success of the summit.

Remembrance of our national day is time to reflect on our continued achievement, both at home and in relation with the rest of the world, as well as challenges that we are facing. Some of the successes that Tanzania has achieved under the leadership of the current President H.E. Kikwete include the sustained political stability, accompanied by stable constitutional democracy, vibrant political competition and good governance. Another important success to note is a review process of the constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, which will provide a platform for the people of Tanzania to express opinions on the fundamental law that governs their lives. H.E. Kikwete appointed the Constitutional Review Commission, which was sworn in on April 6. The 34-member commission led by the retired Prime Minister Judge Joseph Sinde Warioba is expected to wind up its assignments in the 18 months to come.

If everything goes in order, a new national constitution would be in place by 2014.

On the economic front, the rising global oil and food prices, the slow recovery of the global economy as well as the euro zone crisis have negatively affected the pace of Tanzania's economic growth and price stability. Nevertheless, the average growth rate was 7 percent per annum from 2000 to 2011. As a result, a lot of gains have been made not only to economic growth, but also to other aspects of the socioeconomic life of our country and its people. Despite the high growth rate, the rate of poverty reduction in Tanzania has not been as fast. Tanzania is addressing this challenge by implementing programs for increasing economic growth and reducing poverty, such as MKUKUTA (National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty) and Vision 2025, which aim at turning Tanzania into a middle-income country by increasing per capita income from the current \$540 to \$3,000 in 2025.

Since Tanzania's economy is predominantly agrarian and due to the fact that about 80 percent of the people live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihood, the government believes that an effective socioeconomic transformation, which will have a significant impact on poverty reduction in Tanzania, should be anchored in agriculture in order to have an impact on farmers and the rural population. It is for this reason that the agricultural transformation is given very high priority through imple-

mentation of the Agricultural Sector Development Program (ASDP) and the Kilimo Kwanza initiative. At this juncture, I would like to thank the government of Japan for the continued support in the agriculture sector, particularly in service delivery systems of irrigated agriculture, capacity development for irrigation-related technology and by providing financial contributions to the Agricultural Sector Development Program (ASDP) Basket Fund.

Development of the manufacturing sector is also an integral part of the socioeconomic transformation. Through forward and backward linkages, the sector has great potentials of driving growth, productivity and employment to greater heights. The question of industrialization is addressed in the Sustainable Industrial Development Policy (1996-2020). And more recently, the government has approved The Integrated Industrial Strategy (2011) that is promoting diversification, productivity and competitiveness driven by technology, innovations and human skills. The government aims to build

a competitive business environment through development of industrial clusters, institutional support and concentrated infrastructure development to enable Tanzania to compete in regional and global markets.

Other areas that have great potential are the mining and tourism sectors. In recent years, exploration for natural gas has attracted many investors and these efforts are bearing good results. Tanzania is expecting many more investors in minerals and natural gas, as there are still abundant opportunities yet to be explored and exploited. The only important challenge in the mining and gas sectors is how to ensure that the benefits from these sub-sectors directly benefit ordinary citizens.

As for the tourism sector, Tanzania is renowned for an abundance of natural attractions, including beautiful landscape and rich cultural resources that bode well for the growing global travel trend toward nature and culture exploration. Tourism has great potential for backward and forward linkages with the rest of the Tanzanian economy; however, we are yet

to fully harness its potential. Full utilization of these resources will enable Tanzania to achieve a higher economic growth rate, which is needed for eradicating poverty. I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome Japanese to visit Tanzania, the land of Kilimanjaro, Zanzibar and the Serengeti, and to invest in many opportunities that are available in this sector.

Tanzania is well-positioned geographically. It is a gateway to six neighboring countries, five of which are landlocked. Tanzania enjoys a larger market within the regional economic groupings to which we belong — the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), which together provide a market of almost 250 million people. In addition, Tanzania qualifies for preferential trade access to the European market under the EBA ("Everything But Arms"), U.S. market through AGOA (African Growth and Opportunity Act), and other more or less similar arrangements with Japan, China and Canada. Tanzania is also widely acknowledged as having one of the most favorable investment incentives regimes worldwide. The government is doing its utmost efforts to address iden-

tified challenges related to ease of doing business in order to make Tanzania an attractive and profitable destination for foreign investment, as well as for domestic investors. In my capacity as ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania in Japan, I am committed to promote investment into Tanzania. I assure Japanese private sector that there are huge potentials for profitable businesses.

On foreign policy issues, Tanzania has continued to play an active role in global affairs, including peace building efforts in the neighboring countries as well as in collective efforts in fighting piracy, drug trafficking and other criminal activities in the Indian Ocean. The country is also actively participating in the activities of the United Nations, the African Union, SADC as well as EAC.

Last but not least, in a special way, I would like to express my deep appreciation to companies that volunteered to sponsor this supplement. Your contribution and cooperation is highly respected as always. In the same way, I express my gratefulness to The Japan Times for offering me another opportunity to address their distinguished readers on this important occasion. Thank you very much and God bless you!

Congratulations on the 48th Anniversary of Tanzania Union Day



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on the Occasion
of
Their Union Day



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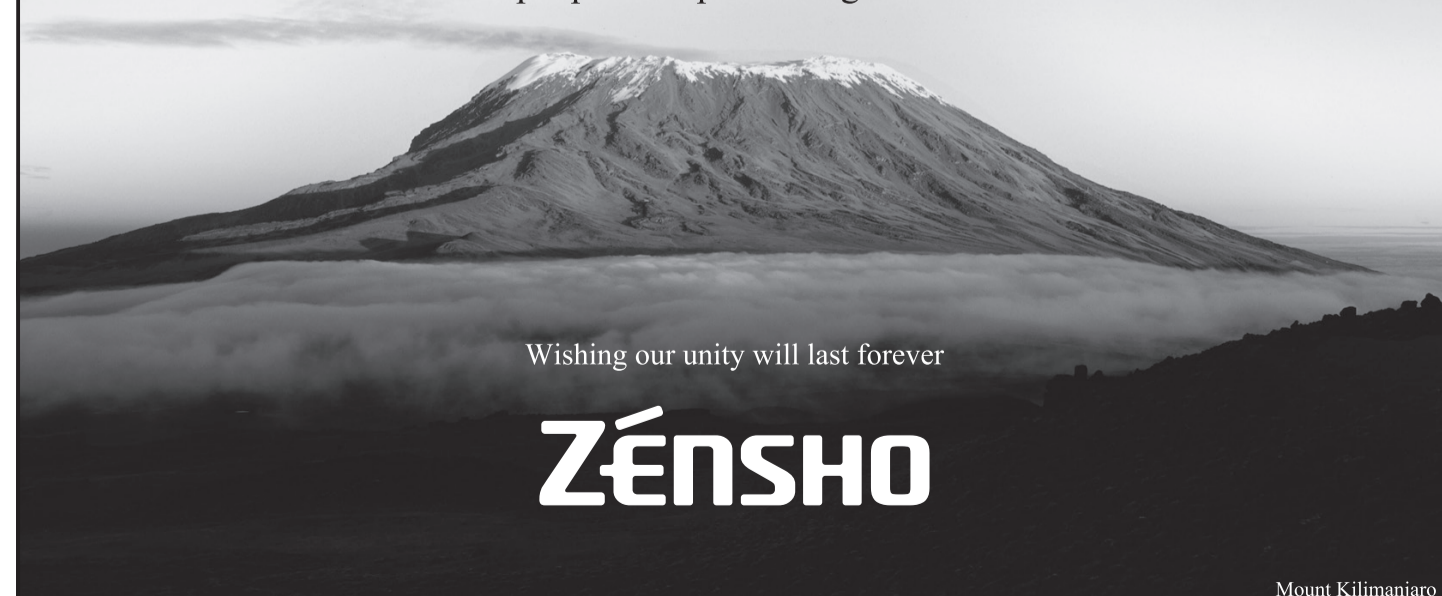
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