

# Tanzania national day

## Actively playing a global role, union holds promise for investors

Salome Thaddaus Sijaona  
AMBASSADOR OF TANZANIA

Today, on our National Day, we are celebrating the 49th anniversary of the foundation of the

United Republic of Tanzania — the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar. 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 Zanzibar. I also extend my heartfelt congratulations to all Tanzania nationals living in Japan and other countries of accreditation of the Embassy of Tanzania in Japan, which include the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. I offer 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 Embassy of Tanzania, 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 H.E. Shinzo Abe and to the friendly people of Japan. As the commemoration the second anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake is still in our memories, I would like to use this occasion to reiterate the continued

support of the Tanzanian people in remembering and praying for the victims and all those who suffered, and wish them full recovery.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Tanzania and Japan in 1967, the bilateral relations throughout this history have been stable and constantly expanding in all spheres, including political, economic, trade and cultural. A series of assistance extended to Tanzania by the Japanese government through official development assistance (ODA) in areas such as roads and electricity infrastructure, agriculture, water supply, health and education, as well as good governance has played a significant role in the economic and social development of the people of Tanzania. Business links between Japan and Tanzania are promising, with more companies planning or in the move to establish investment ventures in Tanzania.

The government and people of Tanzania will always be grateful and pray for continued support and assistance both at the bilateral level and under the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), which Japan launched with African partner countries 20 years ago and has proved to be a very useful initiative to support Africa's development. Under the leadership of the President of Tanzania H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, we are looking forward to participate fully at the upcoming TICAD V from June 1 to 3 in Yokohama, in the view of strengthening the existing relationship and cooperation with Japan.

On this occasion of our National Day, we reflect on our continued achievements, both at home and in our relationship with the rest of the world. I would like to mention some of the laudable progress that has been realized in spheres of political, economic and social, as well as international relations.

On the political front, Tanzania continued to enjoy peace and political stability, while democracy continued to take root and basic freedoms, human rights and rule of law continued to be respected and observed. As an important milestone in the expression of a true democracy, President Kikwete constituted a national commission in May 2012, which is mandated to collect public opinion on the review of the constitution of Tanzania. It is expected that the draft of the constitution for consideration by the Constituent Assembly will be ready later this year. After the assembly concludes its work the draft will be presented to the people for final endorsement through a referendum. If all goes according to plan, by next year Tanzanians will have a constitution of their own creation. Another important undertaking successfully carried out last year was the population and housing census, which was the fifth census since the birth of the United Republic of Tanzania. The results of the census indicated that Tanzania's population is 44,929,002, out of which 43,625,434 are living on the mainland and 1,303,568 in Zanzibar.

In the economic sphere, Tanzania continued to have a sound economic performance despite the global economic shocks dur-

ing 2011. The economy recorded a growth rate of 6.8 percent in 2012 compared to 6.5 percent in 2011, the driving force for growth being sectors of mining, tourism and manufacturing. The performance in investment was also good, whereby investment projects worth \$19.6 billion were registered in 2012 compared to \$7.1 billion the year before. The government continues to take necessary actions in creating a conducive business environment, including measures to reduce the cost of doing business, in order to attract both foreign and domestic investors. Also, during the year 2012, commendable progress has been made in social sectors, particularly education, health services and water supply, as well as in the sectors of roads, airports and railways.

However, the encouraging progress in Tanzania's macro-economic success did not reduce poverty significantly because sectors that contributed to growth are those that 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 will continue to give due attention to agricultural development promotion through implementation of "Kilimo Kwanza" (Agriculture First); by involving the private sector, development partners, and small-holding farmers in bringing transformation in agriculture by means of resolving the issue of low productivity and production. The importance of roads and other infrastructures that connect agricultural production areas to markets and indus-

trial 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, as well as in the agriculture sector.

As for investment opportunities, the 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 current discovery of huge reserves of natural gas both onshore and offshore have heightened the expectation of the country to become a major gas-producer. The government is preparing several strategic plans to handle the huge foreign investment inflow expected in gas sub-sector projects, which include liquefied petroleum gas production, piped/compressed natural gas, fertilizers and petrochemical production, etc. In infrastructure, the government of Tanzania has developed policies and enabling legislation for the private sector to engage in building and operating Tanzanian roads and energy infrastructure under the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT), Build-Own-Operate (BOO) or Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) systems.

As an 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;

vibrant private sector; pro-business government; huge regional market; preferential access to some of the world's markets; and geographical location, as it borders six landlocked countries such as Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Zambia, Malawi and eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, which use Tanzanian territory for their international trade.

In the global arena, Tanzania continued 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 remains committed to contributing to peace and security in Africa and the world. Last year the country took over the chairmanship of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defense and Security, and has been deeply involved in processes that will ensure that lasting peace is achieved in the region.

From June 28 to July 1, Tanzania will host the Global 2013 Smart Partnership Dialogue in Dar es Salaam. This is a global forum that will attract over 500 delegates including heads of state, academia and representatives of civil society, the private sector and professional bodies. The main theme of the forum will be "Leveraging Science and Technology for Africa's Development." I would like to use this opportunity to invite interested groups and individuals in Japan to attend the dialogue.

I also warmly welcome Japanese tourists to visit Tanzania, which is unsurpassed as a truly safari destination. Tanzania is a home of world-renowned Seren-



**Cooperation: Tanzanian Finance Minister William Mgemwa (left) and Japanese Ambassador to Tanzania Masaki Okada sign the Exchange of Notes for a Japanese loan project that will cover part of the Trans African Highway and Mitwara Corridor, at a meeting in Dar es Salaam on April 8.** EMBASSY OF JAPAN INTANZANIA

geti 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 their distinguished readers on this important occasion. Thank you very much and God Bless You!

### Congratulations on the 49th Anniversary of Tanzania Union Day



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on the Occasion  
of  
Their Union Day



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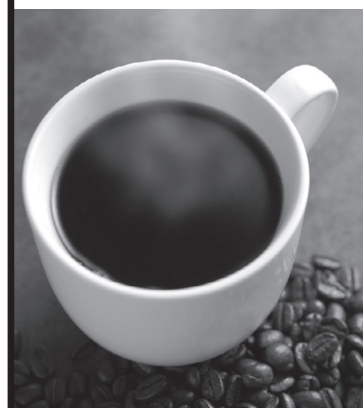
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