

Tanzania National Day Special

Infrastructure ushers in new age

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AMBASSADOR OF TANZANIA



Today, as we celebrate the 54th anniversary of the foundation of the United Republic of Tanzania, the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, with our Japanese brothers and sis-

ters, I once again wish to pay my deepest respects to the founders of the union. The late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, father of the nation and the first president of the union, and the late Abeid Amani Karume, the first president of Zanzibar, who cordially decided to unite the two countries on April 26, 1964.

On behalf of the embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania in Japan, I wish to extend my most heartfelt congratulations to my fellow Tanzanians, particularly to nationals living in Japan.

On behalf of the government, the people, the entire staff at the Tanzanian embassy and myself, I take this opportunity to express my sincere and deepest respects to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and to the distinguished members of the Imperial family, wishing them good health and happiness.

In the same way, I convey warm greetings to H.E. Shinzo Abe, prime minister of Japan, and to the friendly people of Japan.

During my tenure as ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to Japan for

almost two years, I have had the pleasure of witnessing the relationship between our two friendly nations continue to grow stronger and stronger.

Last year, we witnessed the successful Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) Ministerial Meeting in Maputo, Mozambique, a sign of the great importance that the Japanese government continues to impart on the whole African continent. We eagerly look forward to the next TICAD Ministerial Preparatory Meeting to be held in Japan later this year.

On our National Day, we once again continue to reflect on our domestic and international ongoing achievements.

On the political front, under the leadership of President John Magufuli, our fifth-phase government has continued to steer the country along a path of peace and stability that has endured since our independence in 1961. The Tanzanian government is geared to transform the nation's economy from an agricultural-based one to an industry-led one, evolving into a middle-income country by 2025.

In order to achieve this target, the government has directed heavy investment in the energy and infrastructure sectors.

Since 2004, Tanzania has embarked on an ambitious revolution in the energy sector when it began using natural gas in electricity production. Currently, more than 50 percent of our electricity is generated from natural gas. On April 3, Magufuli launched the second phase of the Kinyerezi Power Generation Plant — Kinyerezi II. An additional 240 megawatts have been added to the national grid. This would not have

been possible without assistance from the Japanese government; 15 percent of the \$344 million project was financed by Tanzania's government, with 85 percent coming from a soft loan from Sumitomo Mitsui Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

The construction of the 2,561 km standard-gauge railway is underway and will eventually link the Indian Ocean Port of Dar es Salaam with Mwanza on Lake Victoria and Kigoma on Lake Tanganyika, as well as the neighboring countries of Rwanda and Burundi. Railways are the second most important mode of transport after roads and are critical for long-distance freight along Tanzania's main transport corridors. On April 12 last year, the first phase of construction from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro began and is expected to be completed by December 2019.

Another ongoing major infrastructure project is the Tazara flyover. This flyover is being built at a critical junction where the roads going to the port and airport meet. Thanks to the Japanese government's assistance, Tanzania's first flyover is being built and will greatly assist in easing the traffic congestion at this junction. The project is expected to cost about \$965 million upon completion and is being constructed by Sumitomo Mitsui Construction Co.

In the economic sphere, Tanzania has maintained a sound performance. Real gross domestic product (GDP) continued to grow by about 7.2 percent last year, according to the World Bank, driven by service consumption and strong growth

in telecommunications, construction, port and the service sector that makes up nearly 50 percent of GDP. The government has continued to take necessary actions in creating a conducive business environment to attract both foreign and domestic investors.

I would like to see more Japanese investment in Tanzania. I also warmly welcome Japanese to visit Tanzania and experience

its wonders. Tanzania is blessed to have World Heritage sites, namely Kilimanjaro National Park, home to the highest free-standing mountain in the world and Africa's highest peak. There is also Lake Victoria, the largest tropical lake in the world and its second-largest freshwater lake.

Last but not least, I would like to express my deep appreciation to companies that volunteered to sponsor this National Day

supplement. As always, we highly value your contributions and cooperation.

Thank you very much and God bless Tanzania, God bless Japan and God bless you all.

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



Top: Zanzibar Island in the Indian Ocean is one of the most popular tourist sites in Tanzania. Above: The Tazara flyover is being constructed by Sumitomo Mitsui Construction Co. at a critical junction of roads leading to the port and airport in Dar es Salaam.

EMBASSY OF TANZANIA / SUMITOMO MITSUI CONSTRUCTION CO.

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to the People of
the United Republic of Tanzania
on the 54th Anniversary
of Their Union Day

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their 54th Union Day

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