

# Tanzania National Day Special

## Infrastructural projects a sign of relations growing stronger

**MATHIAS M. CHIKAWA**  
AMBASSADOR OF TANZANIA



It has been 55 years since 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 cordially decided to unite what was then Tanganyika and the isle of Zanzibar to form the United Republic of Tanzania 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 all my fellow Tanzanians, in particular my fellow nationals living in Japan.

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

and happiness.

I would like to wish all the best to the incoming Emperor of Japan, Crown Prince Naruhito, who will begin his duties on May 1.

In the same vein, I want to convey my warm greetings to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and to the friendly and brotherly people of Japan.

As you are all aware, this year is another very important year for Japan and Africa, as in August the seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VII) will be held in Yokohama. It will be yet another opportunity to strengthen the good relations, both political and economic, between Japan and Tanzania.

Last year the TICAD ministerial meeting was held in Tokyo and as usual, it was a great success. The Tanzanian delegation was led by the former Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Ambassador Augustine P. Mahiga. During his visit, he had the opportunity to meet his counterpart Taro Kono and they had very fruitful deliberations on matters of common concern to both countries that will surely further cement good bilateral relations.

After the meeting, Mahiga continued

on a working visit, traveling to Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Osaka, the venue for the 2025 World Expo.

Japan continues to be Tanzania's major partner in the power and infrastructure sector. State Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Takashi Otsuka led a Japanese delegation to the second Tanzania-Japan Public-Private Quality Infrastructure conference that was held in Dar es Salaam in January. The Tanzanian team was led by Minister of Works, Transport and Communication Isack Kamwele. It was an occasion for the business sectors of both countries to meet and to see how they could further cooperate in this vital sector. Major Japanese companies interested in doing business in Tanzania, such as Sakai Heavy Industries Ltd., Nippon Signal Ltd., Mizuho Bank, Toyota Tsusho Corp., Shimizu Corp., Fujita Corp. and Konoike Construction Ltd. participated in this conference.

On March 7, the Kinyerezi II power plant in Dar es Salaam was completed and officially handed over from Sumitomo Corp. to the state power company, the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. (TANESCO). This plant is utilizing natural gas from Mnazi Bay and

adding 240 megawatts to the national grid. Kinyerezi II represents a total investment of \$432 million, or 691.2 billion Tanzanian shillings, with 15 percent financed by the Tanzanian government, while the Japan Bank for International Cooperation provided a loan for the remaining balance. Kinyerezi II construction work followed the Kinyerezi I power plant, which has a capacity of 150 MW and was inaugurated in 2015 by TANESCO.

The government also plans to construct Kinyerezi III and IV where another 600 MW will be produced. In southern Tanzania, a plant in the Mtwara region will produce 300 MW, while one in Soman-gafungu will produce 320 MW. This will put Tanzania on the right track by having reliable energy for industrialization as envisioned in our vision 2025, when Tanzania is expected to be a middle-income country.

This year we are embarking on the construction of the Gerezani Bridge, a new six-lane bridge that will accommodate a designated bus rapid transport route. Additionally, a standard gauge railway (SGR) line entering and leaving the Dar es Salaam port will pass under it.

The bridge will be built with assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Another major infrastructure project is the dredging and expansion of Kigoma port to be undertaken with Japanese technology. The Kigoma port is vital for business between Tanzania and Burundi, as well as the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Kigoma port is at the end of the SGR line currently being built by the government of Tanzania from the Dar es Salaam port.

I continue to warmly welcome Japanese tourists to Tanzania, "The Soul of Africa," to see the wonders bestowed upon it. Tanzania has seven World Heritage sites, namely Serengeti National Park, as well as the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, which is home to the biggest unbroken crater in the world. Additional sites include the highest free-standing mountain in the world and highest peak in Africa, Mount Kilimanjaro, Kondo Rock-Art Sites, the respective ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara, the Selous Game Reserve — the largest game reserve in the world, and the Stone Town of Zanzibar. This is to mention just a few attractions in Tanzania.

I can sincerely say that I have had the pleasure of witnessing the relationship between our two friendly nations continue to grow stronger and stronger during my tenure as ambassador to Japan, and I am confident that after the TICAD VII summit it will grow even stronger.

Finally, I would like to express my deep appreciation to companies that volunteered to sponsor this National Day supplement, namely Mitsubishi Corp., Toyota Tsusho Corp., Sumitomo Corp. and African Home Touch. We highly value your contribution and cooperation as always. I also extend my gratitude to The Japan Times for offering the embassy the opportunity of addressing their distinguished readers on this important occasion.

Thank you very much and God bless Tanzania, God bless Japan and God bless you all. I wish all of you the best in the Reiwa Era.

*Ahsanteni sana na karibuni Tanzania.*  
Thank you and welcome to Tanzania.

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

Congratulations  
to the People of  
the United Republic of Tanzania  
on the 55th Anniversary of  
Their Union Day



from the president and staff of  
**AFRICAN HOME TOUCH**  
**RESTAURANT & BAR**

【Roppongi】  
Yoko Central Roppongi Building 3F  
3-15-22 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0032  
Tel: 03-6447-0116 Fax: 04-8044-9676

【Kasukabe】  
M2 Building 1F Lten, 1-9-13 Chuo  
Kasukabe-shi, Saitama 344-0067  
Tel: 048-752-6969

URL: africanhometouch.com

**Congratulations**  
to the People of  
the United Republic of Tanzania  
on the 55th Anniversary of  
Their Union Day

 **Mitsubishi Corporation**

**Congratulations**  
to the People of  
the United Republic of Tanzania  
on the 55th Anniversary of  
Their Union Day

 **Sumitomo Corporation**

**Congratulations**  
to the People of  
the United Republic of Tanzania  
on the 55th Anniversary  
of Their Union Day

 **TOYOTA TSUSHO**  
Metals/ Global Production Parts & Logistics/ Automotive/ Machinery, Energy & Project/  
Chemicals & Electronics/Food & Agribusiness/ Consumer Products & Services

Head Office : 4-9-8, Meieki, Nakamura-ku, Nagoya 81-52-584-5000  
Tokyo Head Office : 2-3-13, Konan, Minato-ku, Tokyo 81-3-4306-5000

[www.toyota-tsusho.com](http://www.toyota-tsusho.com)

**TOYOTA TANZANIA LTD.**

(Official Authorized Toyota Distributor in Tanzania)  
No. 5 Nyerere Road, P.O. Box 9060, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
TEL: 255-22-2866815 FAX: 255-22-2866814  
Web site: <http://www.toyotatz.com>