## Support, assistance illustrate close-knit relations

Hussein A. Kattanga AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE OF TANZANIA



The United Republic of Tanzania was formed on April 26, 1964, when the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, the first president of the union and the late Abeid Amani Karume, the first president of Zanzi-

bar, cordially decided to unite then-Tanganyika and the Isle of Zanzibar to form the United Republic of Tanzania, and today we celebrate 56 years of this historic union.

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

On behalf of the government, the people and on my own behalf, I take this opportunity to express my sincere and deepest respect to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, and to the distinguished members of the

imperial family, and wish them good health and happiness as we celebrate our first national day during the Reiwa Era.

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

Our national day celebrations come at a time when the whole world is gripped with the ongoing global pandemic caused by COVID-19. Thousands of people around the world have lost their lives due to this virus and unfortunately many more will follow until it ends. I would like to join in prayers not only with the Japanese community, but with the whole world for the end of this pandemic. I hail all front liners, health workers, volunteers and others who put their lives at risk with tireless efforts to save the lives of millions.

I have started my tenure as ambassador of Tanzania to Japan during this trying time and I have not yet had the opportunity to explore all the beauty and history that this country has, but I am sure I will in the near future. I am ready to carry on where my predecessors left off in further strengthening cordial relations between our two countries.

Last August, The Seventh Tokyo Inter-

national Conference on African Development was held in Yokohama. It was an opportunity to further strengthen cooperation between Japan and Tanzania. The Tanzanian delegation was led by Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa, prime minister of Tanzania, who on the sidelines of the summit had an opportunity to hold bilateral talks with the Japanese prime minister. They had very fruitful deliberations on matters of common concern to both countries, which will surely further cement good future bilateral relations.

Japan continues to be Tanzania's major partner in the power and infrastructure sector. Currently with assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency, along with others, we have embarked on the construction of the Gerezani Bridge in Dar es Salaam — a new six-lane bridge that will accommodate a designated Bus Rapid Transport service route and the standard gauge railway line entering and leaving the Dar port.

Once this outbreak is over, I hope to see many Japanese tourists traveling to Tanzania, "The Soul of Africa," to enjoy the wonders bestowed upon it such as the Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Mount Kilimanjaro — the

roof of Africa — Selous Game Reserve, and to explore the beauty of Zanzibar Island. This is to mention just a few of attractions that we have.

Finally, I would like to express my deep appreciation to Mitsubishi Corp. and Toyota Tsusho Corp. who have volunteered to sponsor this national day supplement. We highly value their contribution and as always, I also extend my gratitude to The Japan Times for offering the embassy another opportunity of addressing its readers.

I sincerely hope that during my tenure as ambassador of Tanzania to Japan, the relationship between our two friendly nations continues to grow stronger and stronger.

Thank you very much and God bless Tanzania, God bless Japan and God bless you all. And I once again wish you all the best during this challenging period and please stay safe.

Ahsanteni Sana na Karibuni Tanzania. Arigatō gozaimashita. 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.

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