

National Day of Tanzania

PUBLICITY

Tanzania values Japan ties as major development partner

By **Baraka H. Luvanda**
Ambassador of Tanzania

Today we celebrate the 58th anniversary of the United Republic of Tanzania. On this day 58 years ago, the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, Father of the Nation and the first President of the United Republic, and the late Abeid Amani Karume, the first President of Zanzibar, forged an exceptionally



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unique union of the then Tanganyika and the Isle of Zanzibar, forming the United Republic of Tanzania. Let me, on behalf of the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania, take this opportunity to express my sincere and our esteem respect to Their Imperial Majesties, the Emperor and Empress, and to the distinguished members of the Imperial family, and wish them good health and happiness. I also wish to convey my warm greetings to His Excellency Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan, and to the friendly and brotherly people of Japan.

Having begun my tenure as Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to Japan in December 2021, I am ready and determined to carry on where my predecessor left in strengthening the fraternal and friendly relations between our two countries.

This year is yet another important year for the Japan-Africa partnership



Courtesy of Tanzania Embassy Tokyo

Emmanuel Tutuba, right, permanent secretary of Tanzania's Ministry of Finance and Planning, at a signing ceremony with Naofumi Yamamura, JICA's chief representative in Tanzania

as we look forward to the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8) later in August. It will be held for the second time on African soil — in Tunisia.

By and large, Japan continues to be Tanzania's major partner in various ways. The list would rather be long, but it includes development partnerships in sectors such as infrastructure development, power generation, water projects, mining, transport, health services, education and skills development, etc.

For instance, with the assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Government of Tanzania successfully completed in December 2021 the upgrading into four lanes of the New Bagamoyo Road on the stretch from Morogoro to Mwanza, as part of the Government's strategy to decongest Dar es Salaam City. The road was inaugurated during a colorful ceremony that was presided over by Her Excellency President

Samia Suluhu Hassan and the Ambassador of Japan to Tanzania, His Excellency Shinichi Goto.

Equally important, on Feb. 4, 2022, Japan and Tanzania co-signed the Exchange of Notes for two ODA (official development assistance) loan projects and one grant aid project. The loan projects are for supporting the improvement of the urban water facility in Zanzibar, and expansion and construction of the Arusha-Holili Road into a dual carriageway. The aid project has been generously granted for upgrading inland facilities at Kigoma Port.

It is also worth noting that the Government of Tanzania celebrates 58 years of the Union with a sense of accomplishment and determination. Thus far, the government has begun implementing, with development partners, a mega strategic railway infrastructure project — a 2,561-kilometer standard gauge railway linking Dar es Salaam with nine other regions within Tanzania and with the three neighboring countries of Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The project is being implemented in five phases, with the first phase covering 300 kilometers between Dar es Salaam and Morogoro almost 95% completed. Trials are expected to start by the end of June this year.

A similar mega strategic project is the ongoing construction of the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHP) that will generate 2,115 megawatts of electricity upon its completion to support the country's economic transformation initiatives by generating and supplying reliable electricity for both

domestic and industrial use.

I therefore call upon Japanese investors to come and invest in Tanzania. Tanzania's economy has continued to grow by more than 5% even during these difficult times of COVID-19. We have abundant opportunities for investment in the sectors I mentioned earlier, along with many others such as agriculture, tourism, fi-

ancial services, manufacturing, and real estate development, just to mention a few. The Government continues to improve the investment climate in Tanzania to encourage more foreign investment and, it is my earnest hope that many Japanese investors will seize the opportunity.

I should normally end by welcoming Japanese tourists to Tanzania, called

"The Soul of Africa," to enjoy the country's World Heritage wonders — the Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Crater, the Mount Kilimanjaro, known as the roof of Africa, the Selous Game Reserve and the Spice Islands of Zanzibar, just to name a few.

Ahsanteni sana, arigato goza-imashita, thank you very much.

God bless you all.

CONGRATULATIONS
to the People of
the United Republic of
TANZANIA
on their 58th Union Day



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