

His Excellency Ambassador of the Union of Comoros Dr. Ahamada El Badaoui
Mohamed, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps of Tanzania
Honorable Resident Coordinator of the UN System
Mr. Zlatan Milisic

My fellow Ambassadors and High Commissioners,
Representatives of the International Organizations,
Distinguished invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening! Habari za jioni?

I would like to thank you all who are present here for my farewell reception. Sadly, my term as the Ambassador of Japan is coming to an end, and I am leaving Tanzania on 27th of this month.

It was a great honor for me as an Ambassador to witness Tanganyika's 60th anniversary last year, which also marked 60 years of our diplomatic relations since the Government of Japan recognized Tanganyika immediately after her independence in December 1961. Therefore I could celebrate both anniversaries with the Tanzanian People.

I submitted my credentials and the message from His Majesty the Emperor of Japan to the late President Magufuli and personally enjoyed our close working relationship with him especially on our transportation infrastructure projects such as road and flyover constructions. During his time, Tanzania became a middle income country, which was an astonishing achievement.

It has also been thrilling to observe President Samia's fresh and energetic work over the past year. Engaging in the international community in a more visible manner and efforts to promote business environment are all welcomed. I look forward to further improvements of the current situation in which foreign companies face troubles such as arbitrary and unpredictable taxation. I do wish the best for her.

By the way I had my first contact with Tanzania in Japan, when I was waiting for my move to Dar es Salaam after receiving my assignment as

Ambassador of Japan to the country. Fortunately, at that time I had an honor to meet the late Honorable Dr. Augustine Mahiga, then Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, and his wife during their visit to Japan to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting, and had the pleasure to show them around in Kyoto and Osaka. We enjoyed our sightseeing at the Golden Temple, or “Kinkaku-ji” and we visited the planned sight in the Osaka bay area for Expo 2025, following Dubai Expo in UAE which closed at the end of last month.

I remember very well that the late Minister Mahiga told me that he won the prize of excellence in an essay contest regarding the Osaka Expo 1970 when he was a primary schoolboy. It was heartwarming to hear that he was proud of having given his mother a sewing machine, an extra prize of the contest, with which she was very pleased. As you know he was a very experienced diplomat and looked up to a Japanese lady and a visionary leader, UNHCR Madame Ogata Sadako as his mentor. She was known to be one of the advocates of the concept “Human Security”. Under this vital concept, the Embassy of Japan has implemented small scale grant projects for grassroots communities since 90s. During my tenure the Embassy successfully financed the constructions of 7 medical facilities and public health centers, 13 classrooms, laboratories and girls’ dormitories and 2 basic infrastructures.

Here I would like to express sincere gratitude for the presence of Madame Mahiga this evening. Thank you very much.

Ladies and Gentlemen

During my three and a half years in Tanzania, as a development partner, I was very fortunate to witness several remarkable events and significant developments of this country.

Immediately after my arrival in Tanzania in October 2018, I was invited to the opening ceremony of the Namanga One-Stop-Border-Post which more tightly connected Tanzania with Kenya and promoted trade facilitation. Because this project was planned by myself as an executive staff member of the Ministry of Finance in charge of international cooperation on the occasion of TICAD 5 in 2013, I was very much pleased to make my celebrating remarks in the presence of both presidents of Tanzania and Kenya, President Magufuli and President

Kenyatta.

And the first signing ceremony of Japan's ODA project that I attended was for the Project for Widening the Mwenge-Morocco stretch of the New Bagamoyo Road. It was the contract between TANROADS and "Nippo-Dai Nippon" Joint Venture signed on 28th February, 2019. At that time I didn't expect that I would be able to witness the completion of the construction, however, I was lucky enough to attend its inauguration ceremony in December 2021, along with Her Excellency President Samia Suluhu Hassan as the guest of honor. Under the severe conditions of COVID-19 pandemic, the construction was successfully completed ahead of schedule without any accident.

Next, at the beginning of February, I had finally managed to sign three big infrastructure projects after difficult negotiations.

First, the construction of the road between Arusha City and a border village Holili will develop the local economy of two regions of Arusha and Kilimanjaro and promote the economic integration with Kenya. And I would like to stress that this project includes the relocation of a very dangerous bridge, Kikafu Bridge, which has caused so many serious car accidents. Several JICA volunteers also became the victims. I do hope that the new bridge will be used by the Tanzanian people without concerns about accidents and become a symbol of the friendship between Japan and Tanzania.

As the Second project, the urban water supply equipment of "Stone town" in Zanzibar is expected to secure stable and steady water supply and improve the hygiene standard of the coral island.

And the last one is the renovation and enlargement of the Kigoma Port, which is located on the shore of Lake Tanganyika in the West of Tanzania, and connected with Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Burundi by ferry. This port serves as a hub for traffic originating in Tanzania especially from Dar es Salaam, the port city facing the Indian Ocean leading to the world. Cargoes can be transported by road or rail from Dar es Salaam to Kigoma, then exported via lake vessels to the ports of those neighboring countries. With the Democratic Republic of Congo joining the East Africa Community (EAC), this

project is expected to timely play a huge part to promote the harmonization and further accelerate the integration of the member countries of the EAC.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Here I would like to briefly touch upon the Japanese diplomacy.

For Japan, Tanzania is geographically one of the closest countries in the African continent. In addition, the geographical location of Dar es Salaam allows it to play a significant role in linking up other neighboring countries with the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Two oceans are increasing their significance as a maritime route connects two highly growth regions, Asia and Africa. Hence, I believe that the close friendship and cooperation between Japan and Tanzania also contributes to a vision, which Japan advocates as international public goods based upon the universal values such as democracy and the rule of law, “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)”. By realizing this key concept, I believe, we can secure stability and prosperity of the international community.

Speaking of stability and prosperity of the international community, I regrettably cannot avoid mentioning the situation in Ukraine. The unprovoked aggression by Russia shakes the foundation of the order of the international community. The international community should work together to realize a cease fire and stop the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine as soon as possible. The international community should work together with wisdom based on the basic desire for all humankind to be in peace.

Since March 2020, the world has experienced an unprecedented pandemic of the COVID-19, which has changed the lives of people worldwide, including here Tanzania, in unimaginable ways.

In order to take measures to prevent the spread of the pandemic, Japan has been proactively leading international efforts in collaboration with international organizations such as WHO and UNICEF. Last year former Prime Minister Suga announced a contribution of 800 Million USD through COVAX facilities in addition to the 200 Million USD that Japan has already disbursed. To Tanzania, Japan has provided grant aids every year since 2020. And this

February Japan made a decision to provide approximately 1.4 Million USD Emergency Grant Aid for Cold Chain Equipment as Last One Mile Support through UNICEF to Tanzania. By securing appropriate temperature management of vaccine and delivery to the final spots of vaccination, this grant aid is expected to strengthen the ability of Tanzania to respond to the pandemic. In addition, the Japanese Diet has recently approved the supplementary budget to provide Tanzania with 1.3 Million USD through UNICEF, UNIDO and WHO for fighting against the COVID-19.

Japan will continue promoting international cooperation to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) through assistances in the global fight against infectious diseases.

In 1993, immediately after the end of the cold war, Japan launched the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) as a new framework for African development. Its principle is “Ownership of African countries and Partnership of Japan and other developed countries to support them”.

At the end of coming August, the Eighth Conference (TICAD-8), a summit level meeting will be held in Tunis, Tunisia. In preparation of this summit level meeting, Foreign Minister, Honorable Ambassador Mulamula, kindly attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting for two days about a week ago. The Government of Japan would like to continue to support the United Republic of Tanzania and looks forward to cooperating with her as an equal partner. This philosophy has been well emphasized by Japan in its TICAD agenda and will be also respected at the coming TICAD 8. The main agenda includes health, environment, digital economy, and peace and security.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The cooperation between Tanzania and Japan is not limited only to the bilateral diplomatic relations. Face to face relationships at individual level are an important basis for both countries.

During my tenure, so many young Tanzanians visited Japan in order to study or receive training through ABE initiative and government scholarship.

Especially, ABE initiative enabled participants to get chances of On-the-job training at the workplace of Japanese companies. The Tanzanian trainees are highly expected to play an important role to promote the activities of Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs).

As for sports, the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games also strengthened friendship between Japan and Tanzania. The Nagai City in Yamagata Prefecture, was the host town for the Tanzanian National Team for Tokyo 2020 and has been actively involved in exchange activities. In addition, the Tanzanian Sports Council has been sending a Sports Exchange Advisor to the city since 2018, and the second advisor has started his term in Nagai last October.

Hearing a possibility of sister-city relation between Nagai City and Dodoma City, I sincerely hope that the friendship grown up between Nagai City and Tanzania through Tokyo 2020 will be the start toward a new dimension in the Japan-Tanzania relations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am grateful for the time I spent in Tanzania and all the blessings I received. Although the schedule for my successor's arrival has not been decided I hope you all would be so kind to extend your kindness and friendship to him, too.

"Ninawashukuru sana wote kwa msaada na ushirikiano wenu, nilipokuwa hapa Tanzania. Ni kutokana na hayo, nimeweza kumaliza kipindi changu vizuri tena kwa mafanikio makubwa. Nitaendelea kumuomba Rais Samia na Tanzania, ili muendeleo kupata maendeleo zaidi."

(I'm grateful to all of you for your support and cooperation during my time in Tanzania.

Due to your support, I was able to complete my mission well and successfully.

I'll continue to pray for President Samia and Tanzania, so that you keep

on achieving further development)

Asanteni sana!