

REMARKS BY HONOURABLE ANGELLAH J. KAIRUKI (MP.), MINISTER OF STATE- PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, (PUBLIC SERVICE MANAGEMENT AND GOOD GOVERNANCE) AT THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JICA VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME IN TANZANIA, ON 7TH DECEMBER, 2016

SERENA HOTEL, DAR ES SALAAM

Ms Noriko Suzuki, Senior Vice President of JICA;

Mr. Toshio Nagase, Chief Representative, JICA Tanzania Office;

Your Excellency Masaharu Yoshida, Ambassador of Japan in Tanzania;

Ambassador Dr. Aziz Mlima, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation;

Senior Government Officials present;

Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners;

District Executive Directors Present;

Representatives of Embassies and International Organisations;

Public Servants Present;

Members of the Press;

Invited guests;

Ladies and gentlemen;

At the outset, I would like to sincerely thank you for inviting me to participate at this auspicious event that marks the 50th Anniversary of the JICA Volunteer Programme in Tanzania. Indeed, 50 years of service means thousands of hours of dedication, commitment and hard work; and I want to express my profound gratitude to the government of Japan and all JICA volunteers for the support and assistance provided to our people all these years. I wish you the very best in the next 50 years!

Senior Vice President;

Invited Guests;

You will all agree with me that this event confirms the excellent relationship and friendship that exist between the governments of our two countries -Tanzania and Japan. Over 40 years, that friendship and relations have become increasingly significant. The Japanese government has continued to support our development efforts in wide range of sectors including infrastructure development, agriculture, energy, water and health. Some of the ongoing landmark infrastructure projects supported by Japan include TAZARA flyover and Kinyerezi II power plant.

It is clear that the Japanese support and assistance have been instrumental in socio-economic development and poverty reduction efforts in Tanzania. The success that we have so far registered is very much linked to the Japanese assistance and support. We are truly indebted and I want to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, to extend our profound gratitude to the Japanese government and people for their generosity.

Regarding volunteers, their contribution to our socio-economic development is equally impressive. Indeed, the first batch of volunteers to Tanzania was received in 1967 and since then the number has been growing. So far we have received more than One Thousand and Five Hundred volunteers, deployed in different parts of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. As we have heard the previous speakers, these brave men and women have contributed so much to the well being of our people. Some have been engaged in health sector, promoting maternal and child health; while others have been in education, teaching our children the most crucial subjects such as mathematics and science.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Although the activities of individual volunteers are much smaller compared to those implemented by large development cooperation programs, they have a long term impact on the lives of many people they touch. Take, for instance, the Mother and Child Welfare Centre Project in Morogoro that targeted to improve maternal and child health amongst the villagers in Kilosa. In my view, volunteer programme goes beyond the promotion of transfer of skills and socio-economic development. It fosters people to people interaction at the grass root level. And that is exactly what happened when volunteers were dispatched to Kilosa to promote good health of villagers and when they are deployed to teach in remote areas.

While we praise many achievements of volunteers in Tanzania, I also want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to ten volunteers who passed away while on duty in our country. I want to assure you that we will always cherish their commitment, dedication and hard work. We will always remember them in our prayers.

Senior Vice President;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

As we are marching ahead, we have all the reasons to be proud of our achievements. However, we do have challenges that need our collective efforts in addressing them. Just take a quick look around Tanzania -the number of maternal deaths is still high; malnutrition amongst children is a common phenomenon and science and mathematics teachers in secondary schools are not adequate. Furthermore, many villages lack safe water and food security is still an elusive dream in certain parts of the country.

I believe we can rise above those challenges. All that we need is a unity of purpose and commitment to serve. Indeed, the volunteer programme can play a crucial role in our efforts to ensure prosperity to our people. By deploying more health experts, for example, we can alleviate maternal mortality and guarantee women that no one will die while giving life; More science and mathematics teachers will ensure quality education to our pupils and agricultural experts will assist peasants to modernise farming methods and attain food security. I am quite sure, together, we can achieve more.

I want to assure you that the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania will do whatever it takes to ensure that the JICA Volunteer Programme continue to play its rightful role. My Office will keep on improving its service delivery in relation to issuance of work permits with exemption certificate to foreign experts. We want to make the procedures of acquiring work permits with exemption certificates more friendly and accommodative.

We will keep on doing the right things - sensitizing relevant institutions and departments about the contributions of foreign experts and volunteers; reminding stakeholders to streamline the processing of work permits; and reviewing our internal processes and information sharing. These are some of the measures that we are taking in order to make sure that the benefits of the JICA Volunteers Programme are extensively shared across the country.

Madam Noriko Suzuki, Senior Vice President of JICA;

Mr Toshio Nagase, Chief Representative, JICA Tanzania Office;

Your Excellency Masaharu Yoshida, Ambassador of Japan in Tanzania;

Senior Government officials present;

Representatives of Embassies and International Organisations;

Invited Guests;

Ladies and gentlemen;

In conclusion, I would like to express once again my great respect to all volunteers for their commitment and hard work. Thank you JICA for coordinating role; thank you the Government and People of Japan for generosity and friendship. I wish the Volunteer Programme every success in the next 50 years of service. Long live JICA Volunteer Programme in Tanzania!

Hapa Kazi Tu, Gambatte Kudasai!

Thank you for the kind attention.