

**TALKING NOTES FOR H.E. BARAKA LUVANDA, AMBASSADOR OF
THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO JAPAN DURING THE
COURTESY CALL ON AMB. SAIDA SHINICHI, DIRECTOR
GENERAL, AFRICAN AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF JAPAN, 13 JANUARY 2023**

A. COURTESIES

Good afternoon Your Excellency,

1. At the outset, let me express my sincere appreciations for making time for us despite the busy schedule that you have at the beginning of the year. Thank you very much. I am especially, delighted to be able to meet you at the beginning of the new year as this gives us an opportunity to wish each other a happy and prosperous new year.
2. Excellency, allow me to express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Japan, our host, for the strong partnership and friendship that our two countries have built since 1961. This enduring relationship has been a keystone of our economic growth, social development, and alleviation of poverty initiatives and programs in Tanzania for a record time.
3. But I also wish to particularly thank your good offices for the excellent coordination work in fostering a very positive working relationship with Tanzania and by making it for us at the Embassy to

function well. I believe I can treasure on the continued support from your end as I discharge my mandate in Tokyo.

B. POINTS

Your Excellency,

4. As I have just indicated, our two countries have excellent bilateral cooperation at all levels including, Government-to-Government, Government to Business as well as People-to-People exchanges. For purposes of our meeting today, I will highlight the following few issues as follows:
5. The Government of Japan has been working closely with the Government of Tanzania to ensure that more Tanzanians have access to educational opportunities offered in Japan. For instance, through JICA supports industrial human resources development and capacity building for policy making, generally, and through technical cooperation under the Programme of the African Business for the Youth under JICA (ABE Initiative); and other 9 programs that provide higher-learning education opportunities for the Tanzanian youth to study in Japan in different fields such as agriculture, water, administration, finance, mining, and transport sectors.
6. That is why the Prime Minister of Tanzania, Honorable Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa when he met virtually with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on the sidelines of TICAD8 in August last year expressed the appreciations of the Government of Tanzania to Japan for playing an important role in that front. However, Prime Minister Majaliwa did not shy away from expressing the desire of the Government of Tanzania to see more scholarships in the areas of Medical Care and

Health, Engineering, ICT, Agriculture, Mining Fisheries, Livestock, and Transportation.

7. In addition, he urged the Government of Japan to also consider a possibility of offering our young people with sponsorship to pursue their first degrees in Japan as they constitute a critical mass. This additional request was reiterated by Honorable Prime Minister Majaliwa during the in-person bilateral summit with Prime Minister Kishida on 26 September 2022 in Tokyo. The status at present is that only master and PhD students are eligible for Japan's sponsorship programs.

8. Your Excellency, I also wish to draw your kind attention to the issue that came up during the bilateral summit I have just mentioned. During the summit, Prime Minister Majaliwa underscored the importance of renewing the bilateral negotiations for the conclusion of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) and the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) and Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) to boost both trade and investment between our countries. These negotiations were stalled in 2018.

9. To this end, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida indicated his concordance to the proposal to convene the relevant experts to negotiate and finally conclude these important agreements.

10. Your Excellency, I would like to also touch on another important issue which is the conclusion in November 2022 of the Osaka Special

Training Programme for Supporting Local Government Reforms in the United Republic of Tanzania. Since its inception in 2000, the program has provided an opportunity for a good number of Tanzanian decision makers to sharpen their understanding, knowledge and expertise from the Japanese Gurus that have been very instrumental in fostering *Decentralization by Devolvement* in Tanzania. At the closing ceremony of the training of the last batch on 31 October 2022 in Kobe, I heard the sentiments of the attendees that the Government of Japan should consider extending this important program and/or establish a new capacity building programme under technical assistance framework. I am sharing those sentiments with you as I did with my Colleague, Ambassador Misawa when we met in December last year.

11. Your Excellency, it would be a remiss on my part if I concluded without reiterating the appreciations of the Government of Tanzania for the continued support by the Government of Japan which has enabled us to undertake various socio-economic development projects for the well-being of our people. To name just a few, the recent completed projects include, the Kinyerezi I&II Power Plant Project, the Namanga and Rusumo One-Stop Border Posts, the Mfugale Flyover, and the New Bagamoyo Road (from Morocco to Mwenge) and the Malindi Fish Landing and Marketing Facilities in Zanzibar, which were formally inaugurated on Tuesday January 10, 2023, by His Excellency Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President and Chairman of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar.

12. I believe and hope that the Government of Japan will continue with the same spirit of supporting us in accomplishing the unfinished projects that we requested for support during TICAD6&7 as well as those (8) we submitted for consideration during TICAD8.

13. Your Excellency, my last point is on the upcoming OSAKA EXPO in 2025. During the bilateral summit between Prime Minister Kishida and Prime Minister Majaliwa, it was reiterated by Prime Minister Majaliwa that Tanzania will participate fully at OSAKA EXPO just as we did in 1970. However, Your Excellency, my worry and, perhaps the worry of my Colleagues Ambassadors based in Tokyo is the exclusion of us in the preparatory process as experienced during the First IPM which was held in October 2022 in OSAKA. We very much feel that if this is left to continue, we will certainly fail in our role of effectively facilitating the participation of our respective countries. Through you, Excellency, we would like to have this matter to be addressed within the relevant departments.

I Thank Your Excellency