

Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to Zambia
at the signing ceremony for the Maternal and Child Health Project in
Chisankane Area, Kafue District on 2nd March 2017

Dr. Kakungu Simpungwe, Lusaka Provincial Medical Officer,
Dr. Zulu James Exnobert, Kafue District Medical Officer,
Mr. Ryota Hirama, Country Director of Association for Aid and Relief, Japan
(AAR Japan),
Representatives from the Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good morning.

It is my honour and pleasure to sign the grant contract, on behalf of the Government of Japan, of a project of “Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects”, i.e. the Maternal and Child Health Project in Chisankane Area, Kafue District, Phase Two.

We appreciate the activities of AAR Japan for healthcare in Zambia, particularly for reducing the mortalities of pregnant mothers and new-born babies, including providing medical equipment to the Chisankane Health Centre and construction of the Old Kabweza Health Post, in Kafue District.

The lack of an appropriate waiting facility for expecting mothers at the Chisankane Health Centre caused problems for the improvement of the maternal, new-born and child health situation.

Thus, building a waiting facility for expectant mothers was hoped for, and AAR Japan requested the Government of Japan to assist it.

We considered and decided to extend US\$ 491,532 (Approximately 4.8 million Kwacha) for the construction of the proposed facility and for providing the necessary equipment.

When completed, about 2,100 girls and women in the area may use the facility and the whole population of 11,635 in the area will benefit from it either directly or indirectly.

I hope that the construction will proceed smoothly and the benefits which I mentioned will be realized soon.

Thank you.