

Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobahsima, Ambassador of Japan
to Zambia at the Commissioning of the Grant Aid Project for Ground Water
Development in Luapula Province Phase 3 on Wednesday 24 May 2017

The Hon. Lloyd Mulenga Kaziya, Minister of Water Development, Sanitation
and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Zambia,
The Hon. David Mabumba, Minister of Energy of the Republic of Zambia,
The Hon. Nixon Chilangwa, Minister of Luapula Province,
Dr. Bishop Edward Chomba, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water
Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection,
Dr. Buleti Nsemkila, Permanent Secretary, Luapula Province,
Mr. Geoffrey Chipampata, Mwense District Commissioner,
Your Royal Highnesses,
Mr. Junichi Hanai, Resident Representative, JICA Office, Zambia,
Representatives from the Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to say a few words on the occasion of the
Commissioning of the Grant Aid Project for Ground Water Development in
Luapula Province Phase 3.

The Government of Republic of Zambia upholds, in its “Vision 2030”, the
objective of providing safe drinking water to all people in Zambia by 2030.

At TICAD VI, that is the 6th Tokyo International Conference on African
Development, held in Nairobi, Kenya in August last year, Prime Minister
Shinzo Abe expressed Japan’s determination to support African countries to
strengthen their capacity for response as well as prevention and
preparedness against public health emergencies.

TICAD VI attached importance to promoting resilient health systems for
quality of life for creating “Resilient Africa”, among other priority issues.

Safe drinking water is one of the important elements of public health and
Resilient Africa.

Since 1985 Japan has extended grant assistance for 12 water projects throughout Zambia and constructed more than 2000 boreholes in this country.

In Luapula Province, the Grant Aid Project for Ground Water Development was implemented from 2008, followed by its Phase 2 Project from 2011.

By these two Projects, a total of 416 boreholes fitted with hand pumps had been constructed.

The Phase 3 Project from 2014 aimed to construct additional 176 such boreholes and 5 piped water facilities in the 6 Districts of Mansa, Chembe, Mwense, Chipili, Milenge, and Nchelenge in Luapula Province.

For this purpose the Government of Japan provided a grant of 858 million Japanese Yen, or around 86 million Kwacha.

Now that the Phase 3 Project has been completed, as a result of the three Phases of cooperation, about 180 thousand people have obtained access to safe drinking water.

Congratulations!

We sincerely hope that the safe drinking water which has become available now will drastically decrease the numbers of the people who suffer from such water-borne diseases as dysentery and cholera, will release many people, particularly women and children, who had to walk a long way for water, from doing so, and thus will contribute to the vitalization of the social and economic activities of the region and to the increased opportunities and longer time for children to study, among other benefits.

With such hopes in mind, the Government of Japan intends to continue to contribute to the further development of Zambia in cooperation with its private sector, in various fields.

In conclusion, I hope that the facilities constructed by this Project will benefit many people in Luapula Province, and will develop to become a symbol of the friendship between Japan and Zambia.

Thank you.