

**REMARKS BY H.E. MR. AKIO EGAWA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN  
TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE HANDOVER CEREMONY OF  
THE BUS TERMINAL FACILITIES IN CHIRUNDU TO SIAVONGA  
DISTRICT COUNCIL,  
CHIRUNDU, 24<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2012**

It is my great pleasure to be here today, on behalf of the Government of Japan to hand over **Bus Terminal facilities** to Siavonga District Council and Chirundu District Council.

This Project was funded under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects Programme of the Government of Japan, which was introduced in Zambia in 1990. Its primary objective is to support various development and human security projects at the grassroots level. Over 150 projects have been funded and implemented in Zambia since its inception.

Siavonga District Council has been facilitating sustainable development through effective provision and maintenance of public services and infrastructure based on the needs of the community.

It was in appreciation of the efforts being made by Siavonga District Council that the Government of Japan had the pleasure to provide a Grant amounting to **103,682 United States dollars**, or approximately **500 million Zambia Kwacha**, to the Council to facilitate the implementation of the **Project for the Construction of the Bus Terminal facilities and an ablution block**.

I am told there had been no bus terminals in Chirundu before the construction of this new bus terminal. Bus drivers and passengers had to contend with the inconvenience of parking and boarding by the roadside, which is usually congested with big trucks waiting for cross-border clearance. The bus terminal will significantly enhance traffic order and efficiency of movement of buses and passengers. Furthermore, the creation of the new bus terminal will certainly foster more vibrant economic activity to take place in the surrounding market area.

The newly constructed bus terminal includes an ablution block equipped with showers and toilets. It is designed to be used not only by bus passengers but also marketeers and truck drivers. The construction of the ablution block in the bus terminal will improve sanitation and reduce peoples' vulnerability to diseases.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Situated between Zambia and Zimbabwe, Chirundu is a key traffic point for exportation and importation of goods and movement of people. From a broader regional perspective, Chirundu is an important border point on the North-South Corridor, and hence, a strategically crucial place in the transport network in the Southern African region. Chirundu also acquired a new District status in January this year, on which I would like to say congratulations.

The Government of Japan is no stranger to Chirundu as it has supported a number of Projects in the area, most notable of which include:

- The Chirundu Bridge constructed with funding from the Japanese Government and handed over to the Zambian and Zimbabwean Governments in 2002.
- The Construction of the Chirundu border facilities in 2005,
- The establishment of the Chirundu One-Stop Border Post (OSBP) in 2009, in an effort to improve the efficiency of the Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) processes.

The construction of the bus terminal facilities is part of our comprehensive approach to tackle border issues and to promote and invigorate regional transport, trade and economy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finally, allow me to emphasize that the funds that were used to undertake this Project came from Japanese taxpayers and it is thus my sincere hope that the facilities will be well utilized and maintained in order to have a positive long-lasting impact on the people of Chirundu and beyond.

It is also my sincere hope that this successful project will contribute to further strengthening the cordial relations that exist between the peoples of Japan and Zambia.

I thank you.