

**REMARKS BY MR. HIDEKI YAMAJI  
CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES AD INTERIM AT THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE HANDOVER CEREMONY OF  
THE ART-CENTRES AT THE MOUNT MAKULU HEALTH CENTRE  
ON FRIDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2013**

Dr. Joseph Katema, Minister of Community Development, Mother and Child Health,  
Mr. Philip Kosamu, Provincial Minister of Lusaka,  
Ms. Edith Muwana, Chilanga District Commissioner,  
Mrs. Grace Ngulube, Kafue District Commissioner,  
Ms. Hiromi Kawano, Country Director, Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR  
Japan)  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here today on behalf of the Government of Japan to witness the official handover of the Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Centres to the Kafue District and Chilanga District Community Medical Offices.

The construction of the facilities and provision of equipment for the ART-Centres was implemented by the Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan) with funding made available under the Government of Japan’s Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects. Currently, the Government of Japan is providing grants to AAR through the Embassy and to two other Japanese NGOs working in Health sectors under the auspices of JICA.

The Government of Japan introduced its Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects in Zambia in 2002. Funds were disbursed by the Embassy with the primary objective of supporting various development projects piloted by Japanese NGOs, which would enhance economic and social development in the community. Since its inception, about 6 million United States dollars have been disbursed by the Government of Japan, over 18 projects have been implemented in Zambia.

The current **HIV/AIDS Project** by AAR Japan has been funded by the Government of Japan, with the total assistance provided amounting to **867,790 United States Dollars**,

or approximately **4.34 million Zambian Kwacha**. This Project is proceeding in collaboration with the Kafue and Chilanga District Commissioners, Medical Officers, stakeholders in HIV/AIDS prevention, as well as other local partners in the health sector.

Since 2005, AAR Japan has conducted comprehensive HIV/AIDS intervention projects in Kafue and Chilanga Districts. From 2005 to 2008, AAR Japan embarked on the Chilanga HIV/AIDS Project, with a focus on raising awareness and training for the people in the community. The Chipapa HIV/AIDS Project of 2009 to 2011 had a similar undertaking, and both have been deemed successful. As from this year, the focus of the HIV/AIDS Project has extended further to providing treatment to the community, and this is indeed commendable.

Today it is gratifying to witness some significant groundwork prepared by AAR Japan. It is expected that the completed ART-Centres, located within the Mount Makulu and Nangongwe Clinics will allow the local community to receive privacy-protected care, to benefit from improved client data management as a result of the installation of an advanced software system, and to utilize ART-Centres as hubs to share valuable information related to health.

Most importantly, AAR Japan has expanded access to appropriate care, support and treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS, to their caregivers, and to their families. This is in alignment with Japan's Country Assistance Policy to Zambia, and with the priorities set by the Government of Zambia in Health Sector Development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

AAR Japan's staff in Kafue and Chilanga Districts are working hand in hand with the community to make significant changes in the lives of individuals living with HIV/AIDS and extending outreach to the surrounding network of their caregivers and families. Thus, Japan's Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects is not merely funding for a project but rather building of a close partnership between the peoples of both countries.

In closing, please allow me to emphasise that the funds that were used to undertake this Project have come from Japanese taxpayers. It is therefore my sincere hope that the facilities officially being opened today will be well utilised and maintained so that a positive long-lasting impact on the health condition of the residents in both areas and

beyond can be realised. It is also my sincere hope that this Project will contribute to the further strengthening of friendship between Japan and the Republic of Zambia.

I thank you.

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