

REMARKS BY MR. HIDEKI YAMAJI, COUNSELLOR AND DEPUTY
CHIEF OF MISSION AT THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN ON THE
OCCASION OF THE HANDOVER OF THE NEW COMMUNITY
SCHOOL BUILDINGS TO ST. ABANOUB CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY
SCHOOL, LUSAKA, 24rd JULY 2014

His Grace Bishop Paul, Bishop of Mission Affairs for Coptic Church,
Mr. Potpher Tembo, Deputy Mayor of Lusaka City,
H.E. Mr. Ragaai Tawfiq Said Nasr, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of
Egypt to the Republic of Zambia,
Mrs. Isolde Aust, Counsellor at the Embassy of Germany,

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to be here today on behalf of the Government of Japan to hand over these new community school buildings to St. Abanoub Christian Community School in Lusaka.

This Project was funded by the Government of Japan under its “Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects Programme”. First introduced in Zambia in 1990, this programme aims to support various development projects which would enhance what we call human

security at the grassroots level. Over 150 projects have been funded and implemented in Zambia since its inception.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Kanyama area where this school is located, there is a population of about 20,000 people, but there was only one government school in the surrounding area. Due to this situation, many children cannot even access primary education because of the limited capacity of existing schools, or for economic reasons. Despite the challenges in classroom space and the condition of the building, St. Abanoub Christian Community School has been making commendable efforts in offering education to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in three areas in Lusaka since 2007. It was in appreciation of these efforts that the Government of Japan decided to extend St. Abanoub Christian Community School a grant amounting to 123,367 United States Dollars, or approximately 740 thousand Zambian Kwacha to construct these new community school buildings.

It is my hope that these newly equipped school buildings will give the children an opportunity to get an education and that the education will bring them a better future where they can perform for the goodness of the people in Zambia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japanese people have been committed to the economic and social development of Zambia since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1964. In June 2013, the Government of Japan hosted the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) with participation of heads of states and governments from Africa where the Japanese government announced expansion of its aid and investment for Africa's growth and development. Japanese Imperial Highnesses, Prince and Princess Akishino made a visit to Zambia from 28th June for 5 days, to commemorate Zambia's Golden Jubilee of Independence and also the 50th anniversary of Zambia-Japan diplomatic relations. I am optimistic that this historical visit will deepen the cordial relations and broaden these relations in the future.

Finally, allow me to emphasise that the funds that were used for this Project came from Japanese taxpayers.

It is thus my sincere hope that these school buildings will be well utilised and maintained, so that they will have a positive long-lasting impact on people in the region, and will symbolize the long-lasting friendship between the people of Japan and Zambia.

Thank you for your attention.

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