

**REMARKS BY MR. HIDEKI YAMAJI, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES
AND INTERIM OF JAPAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE GRANT CONTRACT
WITH MASAITI DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
AT THE CHANCERY OF EMBASSY OF JAPAN ON 20 MARCH 2013**

Mr. Jesper Musonda, Acting District Medical Officer, Masaiti District Health Department,

Officers from Masaiti District and Fiwale Health Centre,

Representative from Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to be here today on behalf of the Ambassador of Japan, H.E. Akio Egawa, at this signing ceremony for the Grant Contract between the Embassy of Japan and Masaiti District Health Department. The purpose of the Grant is to enable the Organisation to implement **The Project for Renovation and Expansion of Maternity Ward at Fiwale Health Centre in Masaiti District, Copperbelt Province.**

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

Masaiti District Health Department has been supervising for the operation and maintenance of 23 operational rural health centres. Among all these centres, the Fiwale Health Centre is one of the biggest health centres in Masaiti District.

In 2010, Masaiti District Health Department and Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia implemented a project in Fiwale with support from JOICFP, Japanese Organisation for International Cooperation in Family Planning. The project included the construction of maternity waiting rooms in the premises of Fiwale Health Centre in order to reduce maternal and child mortality rates by providing easy access to health care services for expectant mothers. However, with its successful project being implemented, Fiwale health centre has been having problems in taking good care of an increased number of expectant mothers with its limited space and poor medical equipment.

Ladies and Gentleman

It is in appreciation of the efforts being made by Masaiti District Health Department and Fiwale Health Centre to deliver better medical services to communities in rural areas that today, the Government of Japan is pleased to provide a Grant amounting to Sixty Nine thousand Six Hundred and Sixty Seven (USD69, 667) **United States Dollars**, or approximately **Three Hundred and Fifty thousand Zambian Kwacha Rebased (KR350 000)** to the Organisation to facilitate the implementation of **The Project for the Renovation and Expansion of the Maternity Ward at Fiwale Health Centre in Masaiti District, Copperbelt Province**. The funds will be used specifically for the renovation and expansion of the maternity ward building, and for the purchase of maternity ward

equipment which includes 20 hospital beds and mattresses, one delivery bed and a resuscitator unit.

The Government of Japan has been tackling maternity health issues especially in African countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the United Nations. High maternal and child mortality rates in Zambia are still of grave concern, especially in rural areas. It is my sincere hope that the successful completion of the Project will contribute significantly to improving maternity health in Masaiti District.

Finally, allow me to emphasise that the funds being provided today come from Japanese taxpayers and it is thus my sincere hope that the money will be properly utilised and that the project will be completed according to schedule. I would also like to request Masaiti District Health Department to liaise with the Embassy periodically so that we can keep the people of Japan informed of the benefits of our assistance.

After the successful completion of the project, I look forward to sharing the accomplishment with Masaiti District Health Department.

Thank you for your attention.

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