



news

PRESS RELEASE

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JAPAN EXTENDS GRANT AID TO ZAMBIA

The Government of Japan has today exchanged Notes with the Government of the Republic of Zambia concerning the provision of provided Project Type Grant Aid amounting to 4,892 million Yen, approximately 60.8 million United States Dollars, or 293 billion Zambian Kwacha, for two projects.

The Notes for the Grant Aid were signed and exchanged in Lusaka, between H.E. Mr. Akio Egawa, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zambia and Honourable Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane, MP, Minister of Finance and National Planning.

The first grant, amounting to 2,776 million Yen, approximately 34.5 million United States Dollars, or 166 billion Zambian Kwacha, will enable the Zambian Government to implement *the Project for the Improvement of the Living Environment in the Southern Area of Lusaka*.

The project involves the construction of approximately 14.6 kilometres of road network, covering the Inner Ring Road, Connection Roads and Lusaka South - Multi Facility Economic Zone (LS-MFEZ) Access Road in Lusaka. The aim of the Project is to minimise traffic congestion through improvement / construction of these roads.

In the last ten years, with the support of cooperating partners, the Lusaka City Council has been implementing the Road Sector Investment Programme to establish a full and efficient transportation system. While a number of main roads have been improved under this programme, the road pavement rate is still around 65 %, thereby necessitating further road improvement in order to enhance the transportation system. Lusaka city has been experiencing heavy traffic congestion due to convergence of the

major roads. From the city, three major roads radiate to connect to other cities and neighbouring countries, forming international corridors. These include the Kafue Road which leads from the city to Zimbabwe and South Africa (South-North corridor), the Great North Road which leads to the Democratic Republic of Congo (Lobito corridor) and the Great East Road which extends to Malawi and Mozambique (Nacala corridor). All these roads are connected in Lusaka city, and it is challenged by the heavy traffic with freight vehicles and passenger cars which traffic congests the city road network.

Through the implementation of *the Project for the Improvement of the Living Environment in the Southern Area of Lusaka*, mitigation of traffic congestion in Lusaka, traffic cost reduction, creation of employment opportunity by development facilitation of LS-MFEZ and poverty alleviation are expected.

The second grant, amounting to 2,116 million Yen, approximately 26.3 million United States Dollars or 127 billion Zambian Kwacha, will enable the Zambian Government implement *the Project for the Improvement of Water Supply Condition in Ndola City*.

The purpose of this project is to facilitate the repair and expansion of the water supply facilities in Ndola city. Specifically, the grant will be used to repair the Kafubu water treatment plant and the main transmission / distribution pipelines; construction of water kiosks in the Kaloko area; installation of a water quality analyzer as well as for the implementation of the "soft component" comprising a technical assistance scheme of support for operation and maintenance systems of these facilities.

This project seeks to address the challenge of the high demand for water in Zambia's third largest city in view of the ever rising population. The expected beneficiary from the project by 2020 stands at 354,000, mainly living in the low income areas, who do not receive sufficient water supply. The project will result in the expansion of access to safe water in the target areas, thereby fulfilling Basic Human Needs (BHN) among the inhabitants. The improvement of hygienic conditions and the alleviation of daily water fetching tasks, through the successful completion of the project, will significantly contribute to the improvement of the quality of life for the citizens.

The Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) which was held in Yokohama, Japan in 2008 culminated into the "Yokohama Declaration". The Declaration contains the "Yokohama Action Plan" under which Japan has committed itself to providing assistance towards improvement of infrastructure for boosting economic growth and improvement of water and sanitation as well as in the implementation of measures against climate change. In this regard, the Projects whose Notes were signed today are directly related to the "Yokohama Declaration" and constitute a reflection of Japan's obligation to assisting African countries through this TICAD process.

Japan is now faced with unprecedented challenges caused by the earthquake and the tsunami in the last March. However, the Japanese nation is now all united together and the Government and people of Japan are making every possible effort to overcome this difficult situation. The Government and people of Japan are most grateful for the heartfelt sympathy shown by numerous organisations and individuals in Zambia. Despite the current situation, the Government of Japan remains committed to continued cooperation with Zambia for the promotion of the economic and social development of the country and its people.

The people of Japan hope and trust that once implemented, the two Projects will contribute significantly to the improvement of the quality of life for the people of Zambia as well as to the further strengthening of the friendship that exist between the people of Japan and the people of Zambia.

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