

**REMARKS BY H.E. MR. HIDENOBU SOBASHIMA,
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE HANDOVER OF THE MODERN
MATERNITY ANNEX TO ST. PAUL'S MULUNGUSHI COMMUNITY
RURAL HEALTH CENTRE, ON 11TH NOVEMBER 2016**

Your Royal Highness Chief Mukonchi,

Mr. Felix Mangwato, Central Province Deputy Permanent Secretary,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to have come here today to handover, on behalf of the Government of Japan, the modern maternity annex to St. Paul's Mulungushi Community Rural Health Centre. The construction of the new annex has been implemented through the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects Programme of the Government of Japan. The Grant Contract for this project, amounting to 89,298 US Dollars, was signed on 6th November 2015.

The purpose of the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects Programme of the Government of Japan is to support economic and social development of developing countries at the grassroots level. In Zambia more than 160 projects have been funded and implemented throughout the country, since this scheme of assistance was introduced in 1990.

The recipient organization, St. Paul's Mulungushi Community Rural Health Centre, has been providing basic medical services to about 8,000 people in 20 villages of Kapiri Mposhi District, Central Province, since its establishment in 1986.

The Rural Health Centre has thus contributed to support local residents' child delivery. However, as the delivery bed was limited to one, mothers and newborn babies had to stay in the same room, and there was no facility for expectant mothers to stay in the Centre. As a result, many mothers had to choose to deliver babies at home. Hence, the improvement of the delivery environment was hoped for.

Under these circumstances, the Government of Japan has decided to support the construction of a modern maternity annex at the Rural Health Centre in Kapiri Mposhi District by the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects Programme. Through the implementation of this project, delivery rooms, antenatal rooms and postnatal care rooms were constructed and necessary medical equipment was provided. The newly-constructed annex enables the safe delivery in an appropriate environment and enhances antenatal and postnatal health care services for mothers in this area.

I hope this assistance will help improve reproductive health services at the local level in Zambia.

I would like to refer to TICAD VI held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 27th and 28th August. This was the first TICAD held in Africa. As declared there, the

Government of Japan will take actions to support African countries to tackle wide ranging health challenges utilizing suitable and advanced Japanese technologies.

Japan has been constantly supporting the economic and social development of Zambia since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1964. It is my sincere hope that this annex donated by Japan will be fully utilised to continue to support the people in the community. I sincerely hope that this annex will develop to be and remain a symbol of the friendly and cooperative relationship between Zambia and Japan.

Thank you for your attention.

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