

Remarks of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to Zambia
on the occasion of the Handover Ceremony of
the Old Kabweza Health Post, Kafue District
on Wednesday 11 January 2017

Mr. Josphat Lombe, Acting Permanent Secretary of Lusaka Province,
Mr. John Luputa, Senior Advisor to Her Royal Highness, Chieftainess
Nkomeshya Mukamambo II,
Honourable Ms. Mirriam Chonya, Kafue Member of Parliament,
Ms. Michiko Arihara, Acting Country Representative, Association for Aid
and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan),
Mr. Joseph Kamana, Acting Kafue District Commissioner,
Dr. Kakungu Simpungwe, Lusaka Provincial Medical Officer,
Dr. Dorothy Marumahoko, Kafue District Medical Officer,
Mr. Thomas Zulu, Council Chairman of Kafue District,
Residents in the Old Kabweza and Chifuema areas,
Members of the Press,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to participate in this ceremony to hand over the
Old Kabweza Health Post, representing the Government of Japan.

From 2002 the Government of Japan has implemented 26 projects of “Grant
Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects” in Zambia, among other ODA, by
extending a total of about 1 0 million 670 thousand US dollars (about 1
billion 67 million yen) for this type of assistance.

This time my Government disbursed 517,936 US dollars to the Association
for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan) and AAR Japan constructed the Old
Kabweza Health Post using this finance.

Three year programme is planned for this Health Post from this year.

In addition to the construction of this Health Post, AAR Japan provided the
medical equipment and conducted training of the 90 members of the
Neighborhood Health Committee (NHC).

Such activities of AAR Japan to develop the basic health services system are expected to significantly contribute to the improvement of the maternal, new-born and child health situation in Kafue District in particular and in Zambia as a whole.

The Government of Japan promotes universal health coverage.

In this connection, at TICAD VI held in Nairobi, Kenya in August last year, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced Japan's specific target of increasing the number of people in Africa who can enjoy the basic health services by 2 million in three years.

TICAD VI attached importance to promoting resilient health systems for quality of life, among other priority issues.

Therefore, also from the perspective of the conformity with the policy of the Government of Japan, this project of Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects implemented by AAR Japan should be appreciated for its contribution to promoting universal health coverage in Africa.

Before concluding, let me emphasize that the financing for this project came from Japanese tax payers.

Thus I hope that this Health Post to be opened today will become a testimony of the friendship between Japan and Zambia.

Thank you.