

Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to Zambia
at the Handover Ceremony for the Project for Expansion of Three
Community Schools in Katete

Mr. Chanda Kasolo, Permanent Secretary for Eastern Province,
His Royal Highness, Chief M'ban'gombe,
Mr. Joseph Mukokola, Katete District Commissioner,
Mr. Daniel Mwanza and Members of Impact Network,
Pupils and Residents here,
Representatives from the Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good morning.

It is my honour and pleasure to participate in this Handover Ceremony, representing the Government of Japan, of a project of "Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects", i.e. the Project for Expansion of Three Community Schools in Katete.

The Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects was introduced in Zambia in 1990, and its primary objective is to support various development and human security projects at the grassroots level. So far more than 160 projects have been funded and implemented by this scheme throughout Zambia.

We appreciate the activities of *Zambian Impact Network Ltd.* for education of children in the outskirts of Katete, including the construction of 9 community schools and conducting e-learning classes, bringing about good study results of the children.

Out of the 9 schools they constructed, 3 schools registered students from Grade 1 to Grade 4, but as each of the 3 schools had only 2 classrooms to accommodate students from Grade 1 to Grade 3, Grade 4 students studied in nearby churches without sufficient facilities.

Under the circumstances, *Zambian Impact Network Ltd.* prepared a plan to accommodate students up to Grade 7, and requested Japan to assist it.

We considered and decided to extend US\$ 45,007 (about 436,568 Kwacha) for the construction of a new building with two classrooms and for the provision of the necessary furniture there for each of the three schools.

With the completion of this project, the study environment of about 720 students has been improved and about 250 additional students are now able to proceed to Grade 5.

Congratulations!

In conclusion, let me emphasize that the funds used for this project came from Japanese tax payers.

Therefore it is my sincere hope that the new buildings together with the existing buildings will be efficiently and effectively used to fully benefit the students there, and will develop to become a symbol of the friendship between Japan and Zambia.

Thank you.