

Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to Zambia  
at the Handover Ceremony of X-ray equipment to Ngwerere Rural Health  
Centre on 24 March 2017

Mr. Evans M'hambi, Deputy Mayor of Chongwe,  
Dr. Bushimbwa Tambatamba, Public Health Specialist, Lusaka Province,  
Dr. C.Y. Msiska, Chongwe District Health Officer,  
Area Councillors,  
Mr. Shigeo Kobayashi, Acting Representative of Japan Anti-Tuberculosis  
Association (JATA) Zambia Office,  
Members of CIRDZ,  
Representative of Her Royal Highness Chieftainess Nkomeshya  
Mukamambo II,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Boys and Girls,  
Good morning.

It is my honour and pleasure to have handed over the X-ray equipment to  
Ngwerere Rural Health Centre, on the World TB Day, as part of Grant  
Assistance of the Government of Japan for NGO Projects for the  
Comprehensive TB and HIV Control with a Strengthened Community  
Participation in Rural Area in Chongwe District, implemented by Japan  
Anti-Tuberculosis Association.

Today, 24 March is the World TB Day.

The theme is to “Unite to End TB”, the same as last year, for this year is the  
second year of this campaign.

The Third Goal of SDGs, that is the Sustainable Development Goals adopted  
by the United Nations, is “Good Health and Well-being” which covers the  
fight against TB, among other diseases.

Thus the fight against TB, among other diseases, is very important, and it is  
very timely to confirm our determination for this purpose today.

Japan contributes, in addition to such bilateral cooperation as this X-ray  
equipment donation, through various international organizations to fight TB,

among other diseases.

For example, Japan has extended to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria a total of about 2 billion 350 million US Dollars, or roughly 23 billion Kwacha, and through its activities, contributed to save the lives of as many as 17 million people worldwide.

We appreciate the activities of Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association, as its members are cooperating with the Ministry of Health, Chongwe District Medical Office, Chongwe District Hospital, Chongwe Rural Health Centre, Kanakantapa Rural Health Centre, and Ngwerere Rural Health Centre, to strengthen the capacity of Chongwe District to diagnose TB of patients, particularly those of co-infection of TB and HIV/AIDS.

Their activities include training and supporting many scores of volunteers, training the nurses, and capacity building for X-ray photo taking and reading at the Hospital and RHCs in the District.

The Government of Japan has already disbursed 375, 711 US Dollars, or roughly 3.7 million Kwacha, for Phase 1 of their activities, and 446,912 US Dollars, or roughly 4.4 million Kwacha, for their Phase 2.

I am confident that the X-ray equipment handed over to Ngwerere Rural Health Centre with the technical cooperation from Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association, will strengthen the capacity of this Centre to contribute to reduce TB and HIV/AIDS.

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

Therefore it is my sincere hope that the X-ray equipment provided will be used efficiently and effectively, and Ngwerere Rural Health Centre, together with other health facilities in Chongwe District will develop to become a symbol of the friendship between Japan and Zambia.

Thank you.