

Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobahsima, Ambassador of Japan
at the Exchange of Notes of the Project for Upgrading Lusaka Health
Centres to District Hospitals (Phase 2) on Tuesday 16 May 2017

The Hon. Felix Mutati, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Zambia,
Mr. Fredson K. Yamba, Secretary to the Treasury,
Senior Officials of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Health,
Mr. Hitoshi Fujiie, Acting Chief Representative, JICA Office, Zambia,
Representatives from the Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to say a few words on the occasion of the
Exchange of Notes of the Project for Upgrading Lusaka Health Centres to
District Hospitals (Phase 2).

At TICAD VI, that is the 6th Tokyo International Conference on African
Development, held in Nairobi, Kenya in August last year, Prime Minister
Shinzo Abe expressed Japan's determination to promote universal health
coverage, including its target of increasing the number of people in Africa
who have access to 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.

The Exchange of Notes which the Hon. Minister Mutati and I have just
signed is for the second phase of the Project for Upgrading Lusaka Health
Centres to District Hospitals, following its predecessor Project which
resulted in the commissioning by His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu,
President of the Republic of Zambia, of Chilenje and Matero First Level
Hospitals last month.

This time the upgrading of the health centres at Chawama, Chipata and
Kanyama in Lusaka District to the first level hospitals is planned, by
constructing the buildings including an outpatient department and an
inpatient department and providing the necessary medical equipment at

each of the three health centres.

For this purpose the Government of Japan decided to provide a grant up to 3 billion 908 million Japanese Yen, or around 400 million Kwacha.

Already as a result of the Phase 1 cooperation, the numbers of referral to the University Teaching Hospital (UTH), that is the third level hospital, have decreased significantly, since Chilenje and Matero Hospitals are now able to conduct Caesarean operations, among other operations.

As this Phase 2 Project will further increase the number of people in Lusaka who have access to basic health services at hospitals close to their homes, the Project will contribute to further reduction of the concentration at the UTH and to ensuring the expected functions of the third level hospitals. And indeed great improvements are expected in such fields as child mortality and maternal mortality, among other achievements.

Japan has conducted cooperation in the health sector of Zambia, in such specific fields as maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, and other infectious diseases, by constructing hospitals and other health facilities and providing medical equipment including to the UTH, as well as technical cooperation including capacity building vis-a-vis medical equipment and prevention and treatment of diseases in various ways.

We believe that for Zambia to continue to achieve further development in a sustainable manner, the strengthening of the health sector is important, among other sectors.

Therefore, the Government of Japan intends to contribute to this process in cooperation with its private sector, in various ways, including promoting further introduction of high quality Japanese medical equipment to Zambia.

In conclusion, I hope that this Project for which the Exchange of Notes was conducted today will proceed smoothly for the benefits of the people of Zambia.

Thank you.