

**Remarks of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic
of Zambia on the Occasion of the 29th Japanese Ambassador's Judo
Tournament at OYDC on 9 September 2017**

The Hon. Moses Mawere, Minister of Youth, Sport and Child Development of
the Republic of Zambia,
Mr. Mavbuto Ng'uni, General Secretary, Zambia Judo Association,
Representatives from the Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to host the 29th Japanese Ambassador's Judo
Tournament.

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Zambia Judo
Association, Judo clubs, and each Judoka participating in this tournament,
as well as the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development, and sponsors,
without whom this tournament would not have become possible.

Three years from now, Tokyo, Japan, will host the Summer Olympic and
Paralympic Games.

We look forward to receiving strong Judokas from Zambia in Tokyo and
viewing them win medals!

Ever since I arrived in Zambia at the end of October last year, I have
repeatedly stated on various occasions that, as Ambassador of Japan to
Zambia, I am determined to do my best, building upon the long-standing
cooperative relations between Japan and Zambia extending from political
and economic to cultural and other areas, and in cooperation with the
Japanese experts, volunteers, NGOs and companies in Zambia, to further
advance our bilateral relations.

Promotion of Judo in Zambia is one area for such advancement.

Judo was established in Japan in the 19th century, and has spread to the
world, and currently more than 200 countries and territories are members of
the International Judo Federation.

In Zambia Judo was introduced in 1970, as the first Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to Zambia were Judo teachers.

In addition to familiarizing Judo to Zambians, Japan provided such equipment as Judo uniforms and mats to Zambia Judo Association.

Zambia sent Judokas to the London Olympics in 2012 and the Rio Olympics in 2016.

We understand that at present more than 3,000 Zambians are practicing Judo.

Considering this tournament, “Zambia-no-Kai”, that is a Japanese NGO for the friendship with Zambia, donated Judo uniforms to Zambia Judo Association.

So these may be included in the prizes for the winners today.

I believe that the Japanese martial arts including Judo have the following three characteristics:

First, strength, of course.

Secondly, beauty of movement.

Thirdly, respect for the opponent.

Practicing Judo may result not only in physical strength, but also in mental and humanitarian strength, fostering what my predecessor called the “spirit of mutual prosperity”.

I look forward to witnessing Zambian Judokas, particularly the finalists, demonstrate these, when they compete for the top position, as the winners of this tournament may be going to Tokyo in 2020 representing Zambia.

In conclusion, I look forward to good matches of Zambian Judokas, who are goodwill ambassadors of Zambia not only to Japan, but also to the entire world.

Thank you.