

**Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the
Republic of Zambia at the Signing Ceremony of Comprehensive TB and HIV
Control with Strengthened Community Participation in Rural Area in
Chongwe District Phase 3 on 1 December 2017**

Ms. Yuko Matsuoka, Acting Representative, Japan Anti-Tuberculosis
Association Zambia Office,

Mr. Charles Msiska, Chongwe District Health Director,

Representatives from the Media,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

It is my honour and pleasure to represent the Government of Japan at this signing ceremony for a project of the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects, “Comprehensive TB and HIV Control with a Strengthened Community Participation in Rural Area in Chongwe District Phase 3”, to be implemented by Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association, or JATA.

Today the Government of Japan is committing to provide up to 443,334 US Dollars, or about 4.4 million Kwacha, thus the total amount for the three phases of this project will become 1,265,957 US Dollars, or about 12.5 million Kwacha.

We appreciate the activities of JATA, as its members are cooperating with the Ministry of Health, Chongwe District Health 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.

Notable activities during Phase 1 and Phase 2 of this project, include the donation of X-ray equipment to Ngwerere Rural Health Centre on the World TB Day on 24 March this year, and mobilization of TB Treatment Supporters to visit a total of 1,533 homes in Chongwe, Kanakantapa and Ngwerere areas, and community sensitization activities on TB and other infectious diseases, through singing and drama performing, among others, which attracted 7,658 people.

While the direct beneficiaries of this project are about 4,500 people who have contracted or who are suspected of having contracted TB in Chongwe District, indirectly the whole Lusaka Province will benefit from this project.

In conclusion, I hope that, bearing in mind that the funds for the project came from Japanese tax payers, the project will bear a good fruit, to contribute to achieving universal health coverage in Zambia.

Thank you.