

JAPAN PLEDGES MORE FUNDS TOWARDS REFUGEES

By SANDRA MACHIMA
in Kaoma

JAPAN has pledged to contribute US\$1 million towards the support of the refugee implementation local integration programme which is spearheaded by the government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Zambia.

Japanese ambassador to Zambia Hidenobu Sobashima said he was hopeful that the contribution would be channelled towards activities aimed at sustaining resettlement of refugees in the camps in Zambia.

Mr Sobashima said the Zambian government was admired for its effort to accommodate the refugees from various countries and sustaining their resettlement in Zambia.

He said the Japanese government had since in 2012 extended its support for refugees under the UNHCR and other stakeholders to help the refugees.

The Ambassador was speaking during his visit to Mayukwayukwa

refugee camp in Kaoma district, where Japan had supported some activities, among them the construction of classroom blocks and some health posts at the resettlement area.

Mr Sobashima said there was need to support efforts made by the government in its implementation programme under which long-term refugees were recognised and given an opportunity to resettle in Zambia.

"And in order to assist this effort by the government, we are making sure that we have extended the gesture to the ongoing activities and the refugee camps in Zambia."

"We are hopeful that the fund will be extended and utilised as prioritisation to most needy areas of urgency. The government of Japan contributed of US\$ 11 million from 2012- 2016 and a further US\$2 million in 2017 for UNHCR projects and this year we are extending another US\$1 million," he said.

And Western Province provincial land resettlement officer in the



Japanese Ambassador to Zambia Hidenobu Sobashima Japanese Ambassador (centre) with refugee officials at Mayukwayukwa Refugees camp. Picture by Sandra Machima

office of the Vice President Barbara Chimwe said her office had received about 1220 land applications and that so far 1005 applicants both Zambians and former Angolans had been allocated land at the resettlement scheme.

She said about 1336 plots were available in the area for commercial, residential purposes and that some of the available facilities were now operational to meet the

needs of the people.

Ms Chimwe said only 405 beneficiaries had since moved to the new area, saying the majority were still at the camp.

"The programme is benefiting both the Zambians and former Angolans and also we do not want to create another Angola in Zambia but what we have done is to mix up them accordingly, she said.

RTSA acts to enforce traffic rules compliance

By ALFRED TEMBO

ALARMING levels of ignorance among road users in Chipata has pressured regulators to evoke Statutory Instrument (SI) 63 which demands for compliance among taxi operators, a provincial

traffic administrator has charged.

Collins Chailwa Luhanga, Road Traffic and Safety Agency (RTSA) provincial manager for Eastern Province told Daily Nation on Friday that despite government losing hefty amounts of money through tax invasion, riotous and non-complying transport operators were heavily contributing towards most recorded road acci-

response to high level of lawlessness witnessed by small vehicles expected to accommodate five people accommodating double the gazetted capacity some by operators.

SI 63 requires operators to be in possession of a Road Service Licence (RSL) and identity certificates either on long-term or short-term. According to RTSA requirements are stipulated on

carnages.

"Here in Chipata people survive by a whisker, you see a bicycle rider cycling through red traffic lights, when they know that it is signalling them to give chance to others. They are passionate about breaking the law with impunity," Mr. Luhanga revealed.

RTSA took advantage of the ongoing emergency epidemic preparedness prevention and control management exercise, netting