

Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the
Republic of Zambia at the signing ceremony for the Maternal and Child
Health Project in Chisankane Area, Kafue District (Phase 3)
on Wednesday 7 March 2018

Mr. Daisuke Kanamori, and Other Members of Association for Aid and Relief,
Japan (AAR Japan),
Representatives from Lusaka Provincial Health Office and Kafue District
Health Office,
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 of a project of “Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO
Projects”, i.e. the Maternal and Child Health Project in Chisankane Area,
Kafue District, Phase 3.

TICAD VI, held in Nairobi, Kenya, in August 2016, attached importance to
promoting resilient health systems for quality of life, to achieve universal
health coverage, and create “Resilient Africa”.

We appreciate the activities of AAR Japan for healthcare, particularly for
reducing the mortalities of pregnant mothers and new-born babies, in
Chisankane Area, Kafue District.

In Phase 1 of the project from February 2016, AAR Japan provided medical
equipment to Chisankane Health Centre and constructed the Old Kabweza
Health Post, in Kafue District, among their other activities.

In Phase 2 of the project, AAR Japan constructed a waiting facility for
expecting mothers at Chisankane Health Centre, among their other
activities.

Now for Phase 3 of the project, AAR Japan plans to construct a waiting facility in the Old Kabweza Health Post, procure beds and blankets and other necessary equipment and materials there, and increase the number of mobilization of Skilled Birth Attendants there, as well as to expand the visits of medical personnel of Chisankane Health Centre and the Old Kabweza Health Post to the surrounding communities, among their other activities.

The Government of Japan decided to provide up to US\$ 445,663, or about 4.4 million Zambian Kwacha for this purpose.

The total amount that the Government of Japan will be spending for the three Phases of this project has become US\$ 1,455,131 or about 14 million Zambian Kwacha.

4,520 people in Chisankane Area will directly benefit from this project.

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.

Thus the Government of Japan intends to contribute to this process in cooperation with its private sector, in various ways, including funding this project.

In conclusion, I hope that this project will proceed smoothly to contribute to universal health coverage in Zambia, and to create “Resilient Zambia”.

Thank you.