

Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the
Republic of Zambia at the signing ceremony for the Project for the
Construction of a Theatre in St. John Paul II Hospital in Lusaka
on Wednesday 21 March 2018

Dr. Margaret Mweshi, Executive Director, St. John Paul II Hospital,
Prof. Yakub Mulla, Consultant Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgeon of the
Hospital,
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 Grassroots Human Security Projects by the Government of Japan”, i.e. the Project for the Construction of a Theatre in St. John Paul II Hospital in Lusaka.

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 St. John Paul II Hospital, which conducts surgeries free of charge for children with disabilities and economically vulnerable people, among its other medical activities.

The Hospital conducted a total of 17,937 surgeries from 1995 to 2017, of which 9,812 surgeries, i.e. 55.7%, were done free of charge.

In 2016, the Hospital checked about 7,000 patients, but the number of surgeries in that year was only 669, as there was only one surgical facility in the Hospital, among other reasons.

Under the circumstances, St. John Paul II Hospital prepared a proposal for constructing a theatre including two operation rooms, and requested the

Government of Japan to assist it.

We have considered and decided to provide up to US\$ 89,917 or 861,381
Zambian Kwacha for this purpose.

With the completion of the theatre, we expect that the Hospital will be able to conduct about 3,000 surgeries a year, three times larger compared to the recent average yearly number of about 1,000 surgeries.

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 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 creating “Resilient Zambia”.

Thank you.