

**Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan
to the Republic of Zambia at the Groundbreaking Ceremony at Chipata First
Level Hospital, of the Project for Upgrading Lusaka Health Centres to
District Hospitals Phase 2 on Thursday 21 June 2018**

The Hon. Dr. Chitalu Chilufya, Minister of Health of the Republic of Zambia,
The Hon. Jean Kapata, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources of the
Republic of Zambia,

Mr. Junichi Hanai, Chief Representative, JICA Zambia Office,

Mr. Motoharu Ito, Principal, Architecture Healthcare, Nihon Sekkei, Inc.,

Mr. Katsuo Ochi, Regional Head for Africa and Other Areas, Shimizu
Corporation,

Senior Government Officials,

Representatives from the Media,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to represent the Government of Japan at this
Groundbreaking Ceremony here at Chipata First Level Hospital, of the
Project for Upgrading Lusaka Health Centres to District Hospitals Phase 2.

TICAD VI, that is the 6th Tokyo International Conference on African
Development, 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”, among other priority issues.

The Project for Upgrading Lusaka Health Centres to District Hospitals
Phase 1, resulted in the commissioning by His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa
Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, of Chilenje and Matero First
Level Hospitals in April last year.

The second phase of this Project covered the Health Centres here in Chipata,
as well as Kanyama and Chawama in Lusaka District for upgrading to the
First Level Hospitals, by constructing the buildings including an outpatient
department and an inpatient department and providing the necessary
medical equipment at each of the three Health Centres.

For this purpose the Government of Japan decided to provide a grant up to 3 billion 908 million Japanese Yen, or around 400 million Kwacha.

Already as a result of the Phase 1 cooperation, the numbers of referral to the University Teaching Hospital (UTH), that is the Third Level Hospital, have decreased significantly, since Chilenje and Matero Hospitals are now able to conduct Caesarean operations, among other operations.

As this Phase 2 Project will further increase the number of people in Lusaka who have access to basic health services at hospitals close to their homes, the Project will contribute to further reduction of the concentration at the UTH and to ensuring the expected functions of the Third Level Hospitals.

And indeed great improvements are expected in such fields as child mortality and maternal mortality, among other achievements.

Japan has conducted cooperation in the health sector of Zambia, in such specific fields as maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, and other infectious diseases, by constructing hospitals and other health facilities and providing medical equipment including to the UTH, as well as technical cooperation including capacity building regarding medical equipment and prevention and treatment of diseases in various ways.

Currently, the grant project amounting to 200 million Yen or around 20 million Kwacha, to provide quality x-ray equipment to a total of 13 hospitals throughout Zambia is also under way.

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.

Therefore, the Government of Japan intends to contribute to this process in cooperation with its private sector, in various ways, including promoting further introduction of high quality Japanese medical equipment to Zambia.

In conclusion, I hope that the upgrading the Health Centres to the First level Hospitals, here in Chipata, and Kanyama and Chawama in Lusaka District, will proceed smoothly, to contribute to achieving universal health coverage in Zambia, and to creating “Resilient Zambia”.

Thank you.