

**Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the
Republic of Zambia at the Handover Ceremony of a Maternity Waiting
Facility in the Old Kabweza Health Post, Chisankane Area, Kafue District
on Wednesday 10 October 2018**

Mr. Joseph Kamana, Kafue District Commissioner, Guest of Honour,
Representative of Her Royal Highness Senior Chieftainess Nkomesha
Mukamambo II,
Dr. Consity Mwale and Other Senior Officials of Lusaka Province and Kafue
District and Local Dignitaries,
Mr. Masaru Miki, Acting Country Representative, and Other Members of
Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan) and Their Partners,
Representatives from the Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to represent the Government of Japan at this
Handover Ceremony of a Maternity Waiting Facility in the Old Kabweza
Health Post, Chisankane Area, Kafue District.

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.

Thus the Government of Japan has extended the Grant Assistance for
Japanese NGO Projects totaling US\$ 1,455,131 or about 14 million Zambian
Kwacha to the three phases of the Maternal and Child Health Project 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, 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.

Phase 3 of the project, under way now, covers constructing a maternity waiting facility in this Old Kabweza Health Post, procuring beds and blankets and other necessary equipment and materials here, and increasing the number of mobilization of Skilled Birth Attendants here, as well as expanding the visits of medical personnel of Chisankane Health Centre and the Old Kabweza Health Post to the surrounding communities, among their other activities.

Now that the construction of the maternity waiting facility has been completed in the Old Kabweza Health Post, we are handing it over to Kafue District Health Office.

While the Old Kabweza Health Post which started its operation in January 2017, gave birth to a total of 105 babies until August this year, with the completion of this maternity waiting facility, more mothers are now able to give birth to their babies, in a more comfortable manner.

Congratulations!

This Maternal and Child Health Project as a whole will directly benefit 4,520 people in Chisankane Area.

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 maternal waiting facility, among other facilities and services of the Maternal and Child Health Project in Chisankane Area, Kafue District, will contribute to universal health coverage in Zambia, and to create “Resilient Zambia”.

Thank you.