

Remarks of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic
of Zambia on the Occasion of the 2018 Japanese Ambassador's Karate
Tournament on 4 November 2018

Mr. Gibson Muyaule, Deputy Director for Sport, Ministry of Youth, Sport and
Child Development of the Republic of Zambia, Representing the Minister,
Master Kiyoshi Imtiaz Abdulla, President, United World Karate Federation,
Mr. Munyaradzi Mangaba, President, Martial Arts Federation of Zambia,
Mr. Farai Mangaba, Zambia Branch Chief of Kyokushin Karate
Organization,
Karateka Participants,
Representatives from the Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to host the 2018 Japanese Ambassador's
Karate Tournament.

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the various
Karate organizations, Karate clubs, Karatekas, coaches, referees, and judges
participating in this tournament, as well as the Ministry of Youth, Sport and
Child Development, and the sponsors, without whom this tournament would
not have become possible.

Thank you very much.

Two years from now, Tokyo, Japan, will host the 2020 Summer Olympic and
Paralympic Games.

There Karate has been selected as one of the Olympic Games for the first
time in history.

Congratulations!

Ever since I arrived in Zambia about two years ago, I have repeatedly stated
on various occasions that, as Ambassador of Japan to Zambia, I am
determined to do my best, building upon the long-standing cooperative
relations between Japan and Zambia extending from political and economic
to cultural and other areas, and in cooperation with the Japanese experts,

volunteers, NGOs and companies in Zambia, to further advance our bilateral relations.

Promotion of Karate in Zambia is one area for such advancement.

I understand that Karate was introduced in Zambia in 1970's, and I have learned that currently about 8,000 Zambians are practicing Karate.

I believe that the Japanese martial arts including Karate have the following three characteristics:

First, strength, of course.

Secondly, beauty of movement.

Thirdly, respect for the opponent.

Practicing Karate may result not only in physical strength, but also in mental and humanitarian strength.

In conclusion, I look forward to good matches of Zambian and visiting Karatekas, who are goodwill ambassadors of Zambia and other countries where you are from, not only to Japan, but also to the entire world.

Thank you.