

Remarks of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zambia at the Official Launching of the One Stop Health Service Site at Njeleman Rural Health Centre in Masaiti District, Copperbelt Province on Saturday 10 November 2018

Mr. Mike Musonda, Masaiti District Commissioner, Copperbelt Province,
Your Royal Highness Senior Chief Chiwala,
The Hon. Joseph Kabamba, MP from Kafulafuta,
Dr. Alex Makupe, Copperbelt Provincial Health Director,
Dr. Peter Mulenga, Mpongwe District Health Director,
Dr. Jesper Musonda, Acting Masaiti District Health Director,
Dr. Mwanza Nebert, Acting Lufwanyama District Health Director,
Ms. Lisa Asamura, Deputy Executive Director, Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning, or JOICFP,
Mr. Emmanuel Obeng, Representing Africa Regional Office of International Planned Parenthood Federation, or IPPF,
Mr. Michael Bwalya Chimponda, Chairperson, Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia, or PPAZ,
Senior Government Officials,
Senior Medical and Medical Superintendents,
Members of Civil Society Organizations,
Representatives from the Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to say a few words at this Official Launching of the One Stop Health Service Site at Njeleman Rural Health Centre in Masaiti District, Copperbelt Province, implemented by JOICFP in cooperation with PPAZ, and Masaiti District Health Office, with the funding from the Government of Japan of the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects.

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.

That is why Japan is currently implementing various health projects in Zambia, including the Phase 2 Project to Upgrade Lusaka Health Centres to First Level Hospitals with the grant assistance of around 400 million Kwacha.

We appreciate the activities of JOICFP

Here in Zambia, JOICFP, had implemented, in the past three years, in cooperation with PPAZ, among others, with the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects from the Government of Japan totaling US\$ 1,747,130 or about 16 million Kwacha, the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health One Stop Service Project in Masaiti and Mpongwe Districts in Copperbelt Province, covering 10 areas.

This was done, by establishing Maternal, Newborn and Child Health One Stop Service facilities, through renovating the Rural Health Centres at Mutaba in Masaiti District and Kalweo and Mikata in Mpongwe District, particularly those buildings for maternal and child health, and newly constructing a maternity waiting house and a youth centre at each of the Rural Health Centres, as well as by training a large number of members of Safe Motherhood Action Groups engaged in enlightening activities on reproductive health, and Peer Educators in the covered areas.

On the occasion of TICAD VI, JOICFP co-hosted with IPPF an event with a theme for promotion of health of women in Africa.

In the pamphlet entitled “TICAD Japan’s Initiatives 2017” distributed at the TICAD Ministerial Meeting held in Maputo, Mozambique in August 2017, this One Stop Service Project was shown as a good example of collaboration between the Government of Japan and NGOs.

At the Conferment Ceremony for the First Japan SDGs Awards in December 2017, the above-mentioned JOICFP’s activities received a Special Award (SDGs Partnership Award).

Now JOICFP is implementing another three year project covering 11 areas in Masaiti, Mpongwe and Lufwanyama Districts in Copperbelt Province, aiming to improve access by all women in these areas, particularly girls and pregnant women, to health services, by similar but wider infrastructure

development and human resources development compared to the previous three year project, in the three Districts to cover the whole life cycles of the beneficiary women.

For the first year of this project, we signed a contract of Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects, in last January, amounting to up to US\$ 685,167, or about 6.8 million Kwacha.

Now the construction of a maternity ward, a maternity waiting house, a midwife's residence, and a youth centre has been completed here at Njelemanani Rural Health Centre.

As a result, great increases of the numbers of child delivery, prenatal and postnatal checkups, and visits and consultations here have become possible. Congratulations!

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 funding this project.

In conclusion, I hope that, the One Stop Health Service Site at Njelemanani Health Centre in Masaiti District, Copperbelt Province will play an important role, among other facilities covered by the JOICFP activities, in promoting universal health coverage in Zambia and will develop to become a symbol of friendship between Japan and Zambia.

Thank you.