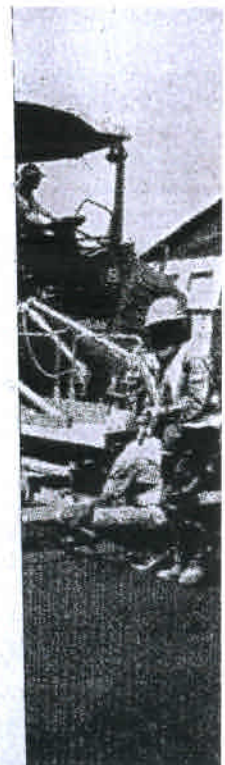


Times of Zambia

10/31 3



## Japanese govt pledges to support Vision 2030

**By KASONDE KASONDE**  
THE Japanese government has pledged support to the country to achieve Vision 2030 of becoming a prosperous middle income and leaving no one behind.

Japanese Ambassador to Zambia Hidenobu Sobashima said his government would cooperate with Zambia in developmental projects meant to uplift the livelihoods like agriculture and access to clean and safe water.

Mr Sobashima said his country attached importance to the agricultural corporation with Zambia hence sending a high-level special advisor to ensure that the sector advances.

He said this yesterday when he paid a courtesy call on Luapula Province acting Permanent Secretary Royd Chakaba.

Mr Sobashima said he was in the province to conduct a press tour aimed

at highlighting the activities been undertaken by his government as well as appreciate the progress on the water and agriculture projects.

"Zambia and Japan have enjoyed bilateral relations since the 1970's which has seen my government undertake projects aimed at improving water and sanitation for people living in rural setups," Mr Sobashima said.

He said Luapula Province hosted a successful investment expo and having been endowed with the necessary resources had the potential to reduce the high poverty levels being recorded.

And Mr Chakaba said the Government was happy with the bilateral cooperation with Japan, which was impacting positively on the vulnerable in society.

Mr Chakaba said the country's Seventh National Development Plan was anchored in the Vision 2030 of not leaving anyone behind by ensuring

equal access to social amenities.

He said the Japanese government had undertaken agriculture and water projects in the province that were helping to eradicate poverty and improve people's livelihoods.

Mr Chakaba said the province had resolved that it would not lag behind in development as it had all the necessary requirements to grow economically and would continue attracting both local and foreign investments.

He said the province had scored successes, though there was still more to be done as the poverty levels were still very high despite the economic activities.

Mr Chakaba said with the successful hosting of the investment expo, the province was hopeful that with the investors coming on board more would be done to improve the situation.

taking the law in their hands

• THE US\$397 million Copperbelt International Air taking shape. Here workers found working on the air  
**STEPHANIE KUNDA**

## Ministry of infrastructure organises dredging

**By JAMES KUNDA**  
DREDGING equipment has been mobilised by the Ministry of Housing and Infrastructure Development to clean the weed infested Kafue River.

This follows a directive by President Edgar Lungu who visited the site at the weekend and expressed displeasure at the growing weeds in the river.

Housing and Infrastructure Development Minister Ronald Chitotela said in an interview in Lusaka that the ministry was

currently mobilising the K100, 000 required to buy the lubricants required to operate the dredger.

"The Kafue River is an important waterway which Government is committed to ensuring that is cleared to enhance the availability of the water which is drawn from river for various uses," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr Chitotela said the Government was committed to sustaining operations at the National Housing Authority (NHA).

He said the firm had been allocated