

**Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan
to the Republic of Zambia at the Handover Ceremony of X-ray equipment
at Kafue General Hospital on Friday 18 January 2019**

The Hon. Dr. Chitalu Chilufya, Minister of Health of the Republic of Zambia,
Mr. Joseph Kamana, Kafue District Commissioner,
Dr. Muntanga Mapani, Medical Superintendent, Kafue General Hospital,
Mr. Tsuyoshi Yato, General Manager, Toyota Tsusho Zambia,
Mr. Takeo Hata, Managing Director, Fuji Film South Africa,
Senior Government Officials,
Area Members and Officials present,
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 here at Kafue General Hospital of the Grant Assistance for Economic and Social Development Programme by the Government of Japan, amounting to up to 200 million Yen or about 20 million Kwacha, to provide high quality Japanese X-ray equipment to a total of 13 hospitals throughout Zambia.

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. On the occasion of the visit of H.E. Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia to Japan last month, H.E. Prime Minister Abe reaffirmed the importance he attaches to achieving universal health coverage in Zambia, and Japan made a new commitment of grant assistance of 500 million Yen or about 50 million Kwacha for upgrading the equipment at the University of Zambia School of Veterinary Medicine.

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, including in cooperation with Japanese NGOs.

Currently, the Project to Upgrade Lusaka Health Centres to First Level Hospitals Phase 2, with the grant assistance from Japan amounting to around 400 million Kwacha, is also under way, at Kanyama, Chawama, and Chipata.

Under the circumstances, this Programme to provide high quality Japanese X-ray equipment to 13 key first level and second level hospitals in Zambia should certainly improve the health situation of this country.

I would like to express my heart-felt congratulations particularly to Kafue General Hospital here for obtaining the quality x-ray equipment, among other recipient hospitals.

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 promoting further introduction of high quality Japanese medical equipment to Zambia, just like this case.

In conclusion, I hope that the X-ray equipment provided here, and other 12 hospitals will contribute to achieving universal health coverage in Zambia, and to creating “Resilient Zambia”.

Thank you.