

Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the
Republic of Zambia at the Signing Ceremony for the Project for the
Extension of the School Building at Bread of Life School in Ndola, Copperbelt
Province on Wednesday 6 March 2019

Mr. John Sakala, Manager, and Members of Bread of Life School,
Representatives from the Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to represent the Government of Japan at this Signing Ceremony for a project of “Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects by the Government of Japan”, for the Extension of the School Building at Bread of Life School in Ndola, Copperbelt Province, amounting to up to US\$ 62,208, or about 746 thousand Zambian Kwacha.

TICAD VI, held in Nairobi, Kenya, in August 2016, attached importance to human resources development to promote economic diversification and industrialization in Africa to create “Quality 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 in December last year, H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan expressed Japan’s commitment to continuing its support to Zambia, in the areas including human resources development, in line with Zambia’s Seventh National Development Plan.

We appreciate the activities of Bread of Life School, which educated 265 children from preschool to grade 7 last year, and offered free education, including free provision of the school uniforms to the economically vulnerable children.

However, with the limited number of class rooms, a number of pupils had to receive education in a very small room or storage, sitting with 3 or 4 classmates on a couch for 2 pupils.

In addition, the number of the toilets were insufficient for the total number of the pupils.

Under the circumstances, Bread of Life School prepared a proposal of constructing 3 new class rooms, a teachers' room and a new toilet facility and procuring necessary school furniture so that the 265 pupils may be able to receive education in an appropriate environment, and also the school may admit more than 50 children who have been waiting to be admitted there, and requested the Government of Japan to fund this proposal.

We have considered the proposal and decided to respond positively.

When the planned extension is completed, the education environment of Bread of Life School will improve and the school will be able to accommodate more children.

In conclusion, I hope that this project will proceed smoothly to contribute to human resources development in Zambia, and creating "Quality Zambia", and Bread of Life School will develop to become a symbol of friendship between Japan and Zambia.

Thank you.