

Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the
Republic of Zambia at the signing ceremony for the Project for the
Construction of Public Toilets for the Community in Samfya District,
Luapula Province on Wednesday 6 March 2019

Mr. George Ching'andu, Chairperson, and Members of Twashuka Club,
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 of a project of “Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects by the Government of Japan”, for the Construction of Public Toilets for the Community in Samfya District, Luapula Province, amounting to up to US\$ 50,973 or about 612 thousand Zambian Kwacha.

TICAD VI, 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 in December last year at the invitation of H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, the two leaders reconfirmed the importance of achieving universal health coverage in Zambia.

We appreciate the activities of Twashuka Club, assisting a number of orphans and vulnerable children, and people with HIV/AIDS, promoting skills training of the youth and women, and implementing agricultural projects, thereby contributing to improvement of the lives of the people in the community.

However, in the community where Twashuka Club is working, toilets available are simple ones which are easy to collapse against heavy rains in the rainy seasons, among others, and the insufficient numbers of toilets are contributing to water-borne diseases, and thus the people there wish to obtain improved toilets.

Therefore, Twashuka Club prepared a proposal to construct 27 units of toilets made of concrete and equipped with ventilators, and requested the Government of Japan to fund this proposal.

We have considered and decided to respond positively.

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.

Thus the Government of Japan intends to contribute to this process in various ways, including funding this project.

In conclusion, I hope that this project will proceed smoothly to contribute to universal health coverage in Zambia, and to creating “Resilient Zambia”, and the public toilets to be constructed will develop to become a symbol of friendship between Japan and Zambia.

Thank you.