

Greetings of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic
of Zambia at the Zambia-Japan Handball Friendship Match
on Saturday 9 March 2019

Mr. Alfred Foloko, President, and Other Officials of National Olympic
Committee of Zambia,
President Victor Banda, Secretary-General Josab Changa, and Officials of
the Handball Association of Zambia,
Referees, Coaches, and Players,
Representatives from the Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to say a few words at this Zambia-Japan
Handball Friendship Match.

Since my arrival in Zambia about 2 and half years ago, I have repeatedly
stated on various occasions that, as Ambassador of Japan to Zambia, I am
determined to do my best, building upon the long-standing friendly and
cooperative relationship between Japan and Zambia, and in cooperation with
the Japanese people in Zambia, to further advance our relations between
Japan and Zambia in various areas.

Sports including handball is one such area for further advancement.

This is my third Zambia-Japan Handball Friendship Match, as I observed
the friendship matches about two years ago in 2017 and about a year ago in
2018, and today I have just observed a good friendship match.

As many of you present here are aware, the contributions of Japanese people
to activities of handball in Zambia are not limited to their participation in
these matches, but many others, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) The visit of the Zambian Handball Team to Japan in December 2016,
including the President and the Secretary-General of the Handball
Association of Zambia, was realized by the support of Mr. Seiji Tashiro,
former member of the Embassy of Japan in Zambia, Ms. Kaori Ishiguro,

Japanese resident in Zambia and other about 100 Japanese people who made financial contributions totaling about 3.5 million Japanese Yen, or roughly 350 thousand Kwacha to fund the visit.

- (2) The Japanese supporters also invited a coach from Japan to train the national Zambian Handball Team.
- (3) In November last year, the Handball Association of Zambia and Alliance Forum Foundation of Japan, in cooperation with other organizations, hosted a Nutrition and Spirulina Event at Prince Takamado Primary School, to introduce the nutrition of Spirulina, demonstrate Handball games to the pupils there, among other spectators, and provide the occasion for the pupils to meet the national Zambian Handball Team members.

I hope that the Zambian Handball Team members are now physically stronger with Spirulina, than before.

I sincerely hope that the Zambian Handball Team will qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games to be held next year.

To that end I will join other Japanese supports in Zambia to continue to cheer and support the Zambian Handball Team.

In conclusion, I appreciate the efforts of all people concerned for today's Zambia-Japan Handball Friendship Match.

Thank you.