

Remarks of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zambia at the Handover Ceremony for the Project for the Construction of Mpunde Secondary School in Kabwe District, Central Province on Friday 22 March 2019

Mr. Patrick Mwanawasa, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Central Province,
Your Royal Highness Senior Chief Chipepo Mukuni Ng'ombe,
Ms. Catherine Mutale, Central Province Senior Education Standard Officer,
Ms. Mary Mwiko, Kapiri Mposhi District Education Board Secretary,
Mrs. Bernadette Chai, Ward Councillor,
Sr. Vielar Hamatu, Head Teacher, and Members of Mpunde Primary and Secondary School,
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 of a project of Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects by the Government of Japan, for the Construction of Mpunde Secondary School, amounting to up to US\$ 68,575, or 655,229 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 economic diversification through manufacturing and human resources development, in line with Zambia's Seventh National Development Plan.

While Mpunde Primary School accepted more than 1000 pupils from pre-school to grade 9, with the increase of the number of children in the area, it needed more classrooms.

Also, as Mpunde area, among other areas, had a large population, it was in need not only of primary education, but also of secondary education.

Under the circumstances, Mpunde Primary School formulated a proposal of construction of its Secondary School with 3 classrooms and furniture, and requested the Government of Japan to fund the proposal, and the Government of Japan, having considered the proposal, decided to respond positively.

With the completion of this project, the school is now able to accept about 150 additional pupils, including of those for grades 10 to 12, in addition to the current coverage of up to grade 9.

Congratulations!

I hope that the newly constructed Mpunde Secondary School will contribute to human resources development in Zambia, and creating “Quality Zambia”, and will develop to become a symbol of friendship between Japan and Zambia.

Thank you.