

Daily Mail 9/13
57

Japan hails Zambia's austerity measures

Move meant to foster development through prudent public resources usage

FRANCIS LUNGU
LUSAKA

JAPAN appreciates the austerity measures Government is implementing to foster development through prudent public resource utilisation.

Japanese Ambassador to Zambia Hidenobu Sobashima says the strides by Government to grow the economy and reduce poverty should be supported by its partners and all well-meaning citizens.

Mr Sobashima said despite Zambia facing economic challenges, Government has

exhibited political will to advance development.

The ambassador, who has been in the country for over three years, said Zambia's political and security stability has made it attractive to bilateral and multilateral relations.

"I'm optimistic of Zambia's future."

I appreciate the efforts Government is making to improve the economy.

"We encourage Government to continue doing this amidst the austerity measures," he said in response to a question about how Japan views Zambia's economic trajectory.

Mr Sobashima said Japan has 81 volunteers in

Zambia through the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers mainly because of the country's political and security stability.

"Since 1964, Japan has been assisting Zambia in developmental sectors such as health, education and agriculture, with grants, loans and technical support," Mr

Sobashima said.

He said development is an ongoing process and that Zambia has a lot to achieve.

"Development is an ongoing process and Japan stands on continuation and consistency with genuine intention to help."

"Zambians should implement most of these

development projects Japan is supporting.

There is room for further improvement," he said.

Mr Sobashima and some journalists on Wednesday left for Central Province on a three-day tour of some Japanese-funded projects in health, education and agriculture.