

'More Japanese investment needed in Central Province'

By **HELLEN TEMBO**
CENTRAL Province Minister Sydney Mushanga has implored Japanese Ambassador to Zambia Hidenobu Sobashima to consider attracting more Japanese companies to invest in the province.

Mr Mushanga said on Wednesday that the province had a conducive business environment in which Japanese investors could come and set up businesses in sectors such as agriculture, mining, tourism and infrastructure development.

He said Central Province was an agricultural and mining province with potential in the tourism sector as the province hosted part of the Kafue National Park around Mumbwa area.

Mr Mushanga said this when Mr Sobashima paid a courtesy call on him yesterday.

"We held the Central Province Investment Expo in 2018 and we have seen a number of investors coming to invest but we have not seen so many investors coming from Japan," he said.

Mr Mushanga commended Japan for the support it was rendering to Zambia in health, education and infrastructure development.

He said Central Province had tertiary institutions and it would be easier for investors

from Japan to set up an outlet that could focus on Information Communication Technology (ICT) because Japan was known for advanced ICT.

And Mr Sobashima said he would appeal to the Japanese businesses to consider investing in Central Province.

The ambassador is in Central Province to inspect projects under the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

budget... So far we have actually done planning on how we are going to restore the entire stretch. The project will cost \$7.4 million," Ms Kapata said.

She said in an interview that due to financial challenges, the Government and DRC authorities would soon embark on a project to reinstate damaged beacons at the Kasumbalesa and Sakania border areas.

Ms Kapata said the absence of the beacons had seen an increase in land encroachments in the areas.

The minister told Parliament in February during the questions for oral answers session that actual work on the border markings on the two border areas would be undertaken to replace the old and dilapidated infrastructure.

A border marker was a concrete cubic square, 1.5 metres high and the Angolan border markers would cost \$3 million while the DRC border would gobble \$4.4 million.

"We have been working with traditional leaders in the border areas and our counterparts in Angola and DRC to avoid conflicts with our neighbours," Ms Kapata said.

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5 []

