

Remarks of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic  
of Zambia at the Official Launching of the One Stop Health Service Site at  
Mibenge Health Post in Lufwanyama District, Copperbelt Province  
on Saturday 14 September 2019

Mr. Liywali Manyando, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Representing the  
Hon. Japhen Mwakalombe, Minister of Copperbelt Province,  
Your Royal Highness Chief Lumpuma,  
Your Royal Highness Chief Mukutuma,  
The Hon. Leonard Fungulwe, MP from Lufwanyama,  
Dr. Miniva Mutesa, Lufwanyama District Commissioner, and Other  
Dignitaries of the District and Areas,  
Dr. Robert Zulu, Copperbelt Provincial Health Director,  
Health Directors of Lufwanyama and Other Districts,  
Ms. Mayumi Katsube, Executive Director, Japanese Organization for  
International Cooperation in Family Planning, or JOICFP,  
Dr. Haingo Rabearimonjy, Acting Regional Director, Africa Regional Office of  
International Planned Parenthood Federation, or IPPF,  
Mr. Michael Bwalya Chimponda, Chairperson, Planned Parenthood  
Association of Zambia, or PPAZ,  
Members of Mibenge Health Post,  
SAMGs, Peer Educators and Residents in the Areas,  
Representatives from the Media,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to say a few words at this Official Launching of  
the One Stop Health Service Site at Mibenge Health Post in Lufwanyama  
District, Copperbelt Province, implemented by JOICFP in cooperation with  
PPAZ, and Lufwanyama District Health Office, with the funding from the  
Government of Japan of the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects.

TICAD 7, that is the 7<sup>th</sup> Tokyo International Conference on African  
Development, held with the theme of Advancing Africa's Development  
through People, Technology and Innovation, in Yohokama, Japan, last  
month, with the presence of H.E. Dr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the

Republic of Zambia, among other African leaders, reconfirmed the commitment of the participants to promote universal health coverage in Africa in Yokohama Declaration.

In connection with TICAD7, the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Zambia signed a MOC on Japan's Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative for the Government and the private sector of Japan to intensively cooperate in the health sector of Zambia, and the two Governments also signed the Exchange of Notes on the grant assistance from Japan to Zambia for the purpose of procuring health centre kits of essential drugs amounting to up to 300 million Japanese Yen or almost US\$ 3 million.

On the occasion of TICAD7, IPPF, JOICFP and UNFPA co-organized an official side event entitled "Women's Health and Rights, First Toward Achieving UHC in Africa".

We appreciate the activities of JOICFP

Here in Zambia, JOICFP, had implemented, from December 2014 to December 2017, in cooperation with PPAZ, among others, with the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects from the Government of Japan totaling US\$ 1,747,130 or about 16 million Kwacha, the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health One Stop Service Project in Masaiti and Mpongwe Districts in Copperbelt Province, covering 10 areas.

This was done, by establishing Maternal, Newborn and Child Health One Stop Service facilities, through renovating the Rural Health Centres at Mutaba in Masaiti District and Kalweo and Mikata in Mpongwe District, particularly those buildings for maternal and child health, and newly constructing a maternity waiting house and a youth centre at each of the Rural Health Centres, as well as by training a large number of members of Safe Motherhood Action Groups engaged in enlightening activities on reproductive health, and Peer Educators in the covered areas.

Now JOICFP is implementing another three year project from 2018, covering 11 areas in Masaiti, Mpongwe and Lufwanyama Districts in Copperbelt Province, aiming to improve access by all women in these areas, particularly girls and pregnant women, to health services, by similar but

wider infrastructure development and human resources development compared to the previous three year project, in the three Districts to cover the whole life cycles of the beneficiary women.

For the first year of this project in 2018, with the grant assistance from the Government of Japan amounting to up to US\$ 685,167, or about 6.8 million Kwacha, the One Stop Health Service Site was completed at Njeleman Rural Health Centre, in Masaiti District, which received the Best Health Centre Award in Copperbelt Province in May this year, among other accomplishments.

For the second year, i.e. this year, the Government of Japan decided to provide a grant assistance of up to US\$ 487,290, or about 5.8 million Kwacha in January, and now we are witnessing the completion of the construction of a maternity ward, a maternity waiting house, a staff residence, and a youth centre here at Mibenge Health Post. As a result, greatly increased numbers of child delivery, prenatal and postnatal checkups, and visits and consultations here have become possible. Congratulations!

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.

Therefore, the Government of Japan intends to contribute to this process in accordance with Japan's Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative, in various ways, including funding this project.

In conclusion, I hope that, this One Stop Health Service Site at Mibenge Health Post here in Lufwanyama District, Copperbelt Province will play an important role, among other facilities covered by the JOICFP activities, in promoting universal health coverage in Zambia and will develop to become a symbol of friendship between Japan and Zambia.

Thank you.