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**Remarks of H.E. Mr. MIZUUCHI Ryuta, Ambassador of Japan to the
Republic of Zambia at the Handover Ceremony for the Project for the
Improvement of X-ray Equipment of Mtendere Mission Hospital in
Chirundu District, Lusaka Province
on Tuesday 18 February 2020**

Dr. Kennedy Malama, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health,
Archbishop Gianfranco Gallone, Apostolic Nuncio to the Republic of Zambia,
Mr. Stafford Kayame, Chirundu District Commissioner,
Bishop. Moses Hamungole, Bishop of Monze Diocese,
Dr. Consity Mwale, Provincial Medical Officer,
Dr. Mwila Kaunda Lembalemba, District Medical Officer,
Dr. Erminia Ferrario, Hospital Director, and Members of Mtendere Mission
Hospital,
Representatives from the Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor and pleasure to celebrate with you a truly significant event for the Chirundu District, Lusaka Province – in a Handover Ceremony of the most advanced digital X-ray system with a reader unit, thermal printer etc., supported by a newly procured power stabilizer, to the Mtendere Mission Hospital, the only core Hospital in Chirundu. It was donated by the Government of Japan within the framework of its Grassroots Human Security Projects and implemented by the Hospital. Its total budget amounts to up to USD 137,375.

First, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Malama for joining this ceremony as Guest of Honour. I appreciate very much Dr. Malama's particular commitment to Japan after becoming my frequent guest at my residence.

Since its establishment in 1964 as a small rural health center in the Chirundu district, the Mtendere Mission Hospital has been playing a key role for the people in this district and its surrounding areas for the maintenance of their

heathy life through the provision of first-class medical services. The radiology department has been the basis for these medical services and essential for the diagnosis of respiratory infections, TB, stomach disorder, gynecological and ophthalmological dysfunctions or other specialized medicine. However, the Hospital has had to suffice itself for a long time with an outdated, analogue equipment from that time – I remember having seen such classical equipment in the black and white Kurosawa-movies in the 1950's or 1960's.

The provider of this digital X-ray system, Fuji Film, is today a leader in the production of advanced medical equipment and supplier of qualified medical services. It started with the production of films for cameras and motion pictures, but evolved over time to become a giant in medical industry. Why? – Because it was also producing films for X-ray photographing, and from this branch the company transformed itself to be rooted in medical services. Therefore, it was not by chance that the X-ray Department of Mtendere Mission Hospital and Fuji Film South Africa met with each other to form a partnership – a unique Japanese-Zambian symbiosis in medical sector and health care in this beautiful province off the Lower Zambezi basin.

Since Japan is holding the top position in the medical industry, the Japanese Government is supporting the leading Japanese companies in this business so that those in need all over the world have an access to the highest-quality Japanese technologies. As Ambassador of Japan to Zambia, I am particularly happy that two of my colleagues from the diplomatic corps are here, presumably well-prepared to support the hospital in many ways. Maybe it is time to form an alliance on the African medical front to contribute to the strengthening the health care sector in Zambia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Concerning the technical aspect and the supremacy of the digital X-ray System, I now would like to invite Mr. Yamada to take the floor and explain to you more in detail about the system.

Thank you and may our Goddesses and Gods bless you.