

**Remarks by Mr. SUGIURA Toshio, Chargé d’Affaires Ad
Interim of Japan on the Occasion of Grant Contract
Signing Ceremony for Grant Assistance for Grassroots
Human Security Projects at the Embassy of Japan, Haile
Selassie Avenue, Lusaka
On December 7th, 2020**

Ms. Sara Larios, Executive Director, Undikumbukire Project Zambia,
Representatives from the Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you at the Embassy of Japan for the signing ceremony. On behalf of Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zambia, I am honored to sign the grant contract for “The Project for the Rehabilitation of the Water Supply System in Katombora, Kazungla District, Southern Province”, amounting to 115,648 US dollar. This project is funded under the scheme titled “Grant Assistance for the Grassroots Human Security Project” by the Government of Japan.

Undikumbukire Project Zambia has been serving the Katombora community by providing educational and vocational support to the juvenile as well as working in hand-in-hand with Katombora Reformatory School to maintain the Water Supply System which has been the main and the single source of clean and safe water in Katombora community since its establishment in 1990s.

Over the past few decades, despite the many steps taken to temporarily restore the facility, the deterioration of the water transmission lines and the main pump have severely affected its supply capacity. In addition, a major breakdown in pumping system in October 2019 brought the system to a complete halt. This posed unprecedented challenges to the community and deprived thousands of people of clean water. They had no choice but to fetch untreated water from the river and shallow wells for domestic and public use. This has caused spikes in diarrhea, typhoid and skin infectious cases, with approximately 40 cases are found on a monthly basis.

The Government of Japan recognises the importance of water and sanitation and its impact on health and other socio-economic activities. Against

this backdrop, the Embassy decided to extend assistance for the rehabilitation of the Water Supply System including the replacement of existing pipe lines and pumping station, as well as the installation of the distribution network extended to two nearby communities, namely Maluka and Mushekwa.

When fully implemented, this project will ensure the continuous and safe water access to about 800 residents in Katombora, Maluka and Mushekwa as well as about 3,000 people from surrounding communities, who use the school and health facilities. This will further contribute to prevent and reduce water-born and infectious diseases attributed to the contaminated water use and improve the health and well-being of the community.

I therefore sincerely hope that with the close collaboration with the Embassy of Japan and through the sound of management, Undikumbukire Project Zambia will ensure the implementation of the agreement.

Thank you for your attention.