

Remarks by Mr. SUGIURA Toshio, Chargé d’Affaires Ad Interim of Japan to the Republic of Zambia on the Occasion of Handover Ceremony for “The Project for Construction of Public Toilets for the Community in Samfya District, Luapula Province” on 10th December 2020

Mr. Kunda Chipalo, Environment Health Technician of District Health Office,
Fr. Anthony Kasaba Muchengwa, Catholic Priest,
Mr. George Ching’andu, Club Chair Person of Twashuka Club,
Representative from Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Zambia, I am grateful to be here with you to celebrate the handover of the public toilet facilities, constructed under “The Project for Construction of Public Toilets for the Community in Samfya District, Luapula Province”. This project was funded by the scheme titled “Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects” by the Government of Japan, with the total fund of 50,973 US Dollars.

Basic sanitation services are not only basic human needs but also are critical for breaking the vicious cycle of poverty and diseases. In addition, coronavirus outbreak has drawn attention to importance of access to basic sanitation facilities and good hygiene practices in preventing infectious diseases and further diseases outbreak.

Since its establishment in 2013, Twashuka Club has working keenly with the community to promote sufficient hygiene practices through sensitization and training of health staff and community members. Yet, poor hygiene practices such as open defecation remain widespread due to lack of adequate toilet facilities. Toilet facilities available in the community are Pit Latrines with a simple hole which are easily collapsed during the rain seasons. This results in contamination of drinking-water and cropland, causing the spread of preventable diseases such as cholera and diarrhea.

The Government of Japan identifies water and sanitation as a cross-cutting factor in the context of promoting health, economic growth and sustainable environment, providing long-standing support build on experience, knowledge and technology. While Japan has been contributing in investments in social infrastructure such as construction of public toilets and shower facilities for long-lasting positive changes, we also invest in people through awareness raising, education in health and

sanitation with close collaboration with Japanese experts in each sector.

Against this background, the Government of Japan decided to provide assistance for 27 semi-detached sanitation facilities equipped with the toilet and shower room.

Benefits of the project can be extended beyond the provision of access to durable and adequate toilet facilities to improvement in health condition by reducing diarrhea, cholera and other infectious diseases. However, without the promotion of constructed toilet use and behavioral change among the community, those benefits may be compromised.

Thus, it is my sincere hope that with the cooperation of all stakeholders, facilities will be fully utilized and well-managed in a sustainable manner.

In concluding, I would like to express my profound gratitude to Twashuka Club for their tremendous effort; and convey the best wishes to all of you for the further activities.

Thank you very much for your attention.