

Check against delivery

Remarks by H.E. Ambassador MIZUUCHI Ryuta on the Occasion of the “Handover of Emergency relief goods to the Republic of Zambia in Response to the Flood Disaster”, on 23rd February 2022

Dr. Gabriel Pollen, National Coordinator of the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit, representing Her Honour Madame Mutale Nalumango, Vice President of the Republic of Zambia,
Mr. TOKUHASHI Kazuhiko, Chief Representative, JICA Office in Zambia,
Senior Governmental Officials,
Representatives from Media Houses,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be here on the occasion of the handover of emergency relief goods donated by the Government of Japan to the victims of recent flooding caused by the torrential rain in the past several weeks, deteriorated by the tropical storm “Ana” that stayed in the region quite long until some time ago. First of all, I would like to express my deepest sympathies to all those who have lost their houses, farmlands or livestock animals due to the serious disaster. Further, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Her Honour, Vice President Mutale-Nalumango for representing the Zambian Government to receive these goods.

Indeed, the damages caused by the said disaster has been quite devastating. As far as I could see through various press reports, as of 28 January, 2 people were injured and the total of 38,706 people (6,451 households) affected, 541 houses damaged (many people lost their homes due to the outflow of water), 1,226 livestock lost, and 8,397 hectares of farmland flooded. Infrastructure such as roads, bridges and water supply facilities, as well as schools and hospitals, suffered severe destruction as well.

This triggered the Zambian Government to request Japan to provide emergency relief goods for supporting the lives of the victims of the floods for the time being. In quick response to that request, our government decided to send tents, blankets, plastic sheets, portable jerry cans and water purifiers. They were stored in a JICA

storage in Dubai and have now arrived, as you see today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As fellow citizens on Mother Earth, we help each other at the time of challenges and hardships. Japan is also a country of natural disasters, sometimes befallen by heavy typhoons or even earthquakes. In 2011, Japan was literally shaken and devastated by a huge earthquake and the following tsunami. Many people lost their lives or the loved ones. Even those who survived were left behind with all their property having vanished overnight. However, they were warmly supported by millions of people from all over the world. It is the same spirit, the spirit of gratitude and mutual support, that inspires us to help people in Zambia when they are in need.

The emergency relief goods that are delivered will serve to support the immediate needs of the victims of the disaster. I hope that at least some of the burdens on them will be lessened by our support and that people will be able to look to the future positively and overcome the calamity sooner, rather than later.

Last but not least, I hope that these supplies from Japan will contribute to further strengthening the bonds between the people of Japan and Zambia ever closer.

Thank you for your attention.