

Remarks by Mr. OMINATO Satoshi, Chargé d’Affaires ad interim at the
Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Zambia, on the Occasion of the
Handover Ceremony of INRIS (Integrated National Registration
Information System) Equipment
26th April 2022

Hon. Mr. Jack Mwiimbu, Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security,
Mr. Dickson Matembo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and
Internal Security,
Mr. Lionel Laurens, UNDP Representative,
Ms. Noala Skinner, UNICEF Representative,
Senior Officials from the Government of the Republic of Zambia,
Distinguished Guests,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here on behalf of the Embassy of Japan for the handover ceremony of INRIS equipment. The Government of Japan has been supporting UNDP and its partner agency UNICEF for the project “Legal Identity for All” to supplement the effort of the Department of National Registration, Citizenship and Passports of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security in rolling out INRIS nationwide. With the financial support from the Japanese Government which amounts to US\$925 thousand (ZMW 16 million), UNDP has procured 116 biometric kits, including internet connectivity devices and signature pads for 25 health facilities in selected districts, as well as 3 thermography equipment to manage COVID-19 in public spaces. It should also be highlighted that this project also includes the implementation of training in the proper use of the provided equipment for government officials. Providing equipment is of great importance, but human resource development is even more significant for the sustainable growth of Zambia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Japan, we have a system called “Family Register” or “Koseki” in Japanese to record birth, marriage, death and so on, which is managed by

each municipal office. The Family Register used to be recorded only on paper until 1995, when they started to record on computers. Now almost all municipalities in Japan record vital events on computers. Recently the municipalities have been trying to link their systems to terminals installed at convenience stores that are located throughout Japan and open 24/7. One can obtain certificates at a time and place most suitable for them. Computerization facilitates the provision of public services. I am sure that INRIS in Zambia will likewise help create a more convenient and efficient society for the people of Zambia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In addition, it is worth mentioning that the implementation of INRIS is in line with the “United Nations Legal Identity Agenda”. INRIS will directly contribute to the achievement of some Targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as the Target 16.9 (“legal identity for all, including birth registration, by 2030”), as well as the Target 17.19 (“100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration by 2030”). Furthermore, fully operational INRIS has the potential to help achieve 12 out of 17 SDGs. I would like to commend the unwavering efforts by the Zambian Government to improve the identity management for its citizens.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last but not least, I sincerely hope that the Zambian Government will make maximum use of the equipment provided today for effective INRIS building. I also expect that these equipment will be utilised not only for birth and death certificates, but also for immunisation certificates. Currently, COVID-19 and polio transmission remains major health concerns in Zambia. Using this system to closely monitor immunisation status is beneficial in protecting the health of all citizens. In concluding, I would like to wish all those involved in the development of INRIS continued success in their future endeavours.

Thank you for your attention.