

Remarks by Mr. OMINATO Satoshi, Chargé d’Affaires ad  
interim at the Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Zambia, for  
the Handover Ceremony of the Project for Strengthening  
Management Capacity of the First Level Hospitals in Lusaka

District

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022

*Hon. Sheal Mulyata, Minister of Lusaka Province,*  
Dr. Lackson Kasonka, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health,  
Senior Officials from the Government,  
Representative from the Media,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be here with you on the occasion of the Handover Ceremony regarding the “Project for Strengthening Management Capacity of the First Level Hospitals in Lusaka District”, which is being implemented by JICA. First of all, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to *Hon. Minister Sheal Mulyata of Lusaka Province* for her presence which indicates the significance the Government of Zambia attaches to this project.

Within the framework of this project, JICA has provided equipment already twice since the project was launched in May last year – that is a time the Zambian Government was making every effort to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Such equipment as oxygen concentrators and vital sign measuring machines which were urgently needed were delivered to the targeted five Level 2 Hospitals in Lusaka. As the fourth wave of COVID-19 is kept under control and the Government’s priority is shifting to coping with more conventional diseases, both infectious and chronic, such as tuberculosis or malaria, or traditional challenges like mother and child healthcare, the equipment which will be handed over today reflects this trend. The package amounts to 70 million Japanese Yen, or approximately 600,000 US dollars, and encompasses essential medical devices such as anesthesia machines, or patient monitors responding to the needs of those hospitals for broader

## *Check Against Delivery*

medical and clinical treatment. This package surpasses the previous two deliveries in terms of both quantity and quality.

Together with the technical assistance extended by two long-term JICA experts for the medical doctors and staff at the hospitals, the equipment handed over today will serve to enable the hospitals to fulfill the criteria of Level 2 Hospital in accordance with the Government regulations. However, efforts on the Zambian side will be of paramount significance for the hospitals to be fully operational as Level 2 Hospitals. I expect that the Zambian side will maintain these essential machines and devices in good working condition, including by supplying component parts, and provide medicines or other basic supplies that are essential for the hospitals to function as Level 2 Hospitals. Likewise, the management capacity of the hospitals strengthened through the technical assistance by JICA experts needs to be sustained.

*Honourable Minister, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

In concluding, let me express my hope that the medical equipment handed over today will be utilised to the full extent and serve the Zambian public at large to its satisfaction. Cooperation in the healthcare sector between Japan and Zambia will continue to deepen for the next generations. Let us all hope that the 5 hospitals which will receive these sets of equipment will serve the people of Lusaka with a great success in the future.

Thank you for your attention.