

**Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Mizuuchi
on the Occasion of the 12th Ambassador's Karate Tournament
7th August 2022**

Honourable Elvis Nkandu, Minister of Youth, Sport and Arts of the
Republic of Zambia,
Mr. Simba Mangaba, Executive Director of Zambia Kyokushin Karate
Organisation,
Karate-kas Participating in this Tournament,
Distinguished Guests,
Members of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, I would like to congratulate you all on the 12th Japanese Ambassador's Karate Tournament – which symbolises that the difficulties and challenges of COVID-19 pandemic have almost subsided. As I was told, this year's tournament attracted as many as 300 participants from Zambia and neighbouring countries, namely from Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania and DRC, making it the largest tournament in its history. It is quite impressive that this Tournament has become such an important event for all Karate-kas in Southern African countries.

Before going into details, I wish to thank Honourable Nkandu as Guest of Honour and grace this event with his presence. My gratitude also goes to all Karate-kas as well as Zambia Kyokushin Karate Organisation, various Karate organisations and clubs, coaches, referees, judges, and also the sponsors for the successful conduct of this tournament.

I wish also to highlight the two leading Japanese companies, namely Hitachi Construction Machinery Zambia and Toyota Zambia, which sponsored the tournament for the first time and pay my tribute to them for supporting the traditional Japanese sport in Zambia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Two days ago, at the reception at my Residence, I emphasized that to promote sport in Zambia, communities and education, as well as business and media will play an important role. Today, I would like to elaborate a little more the effect of Karate on education.

According to the preamble of “Karate Charter” of the Federation of Japan Karate-do, Karate-kas in Japan are not only required to acquire skills. They must also contribute to maintaining and developing the Japanese tradition and culture with a high sense of ethics and the true essence of the art of Karate – which is the “spirit of Samurai”. They must respect the courtesy and exercise politeness and humanity, abide by the rules of society and serve the society. Above all, regarding the next generation and beyond, they - in this case Karate teachers, trainers and those with higher Dans - must bear in mind building up their successors who are willing to contribute to the nation and ready to be respected by the nation. In other words, Karate defines itself as a “platform of education”.

Karate Charter further calls upon Karate-kas to “build up a robust human body through training their mental and spiritual selves”, and devote themselves to upgrading their sense of justice, politeness and morality, which is symbolised in “Rei” – an act of bowing out of humbleness and respect before and after the matches.

Now, look at the Karate-kas who will be performing their skills today. And think about how they grow learning this essence of Karate that I described. And think about what Zambia requires in order to fully develop its potentials. It requires just the right human resources that Karate requires them to be. Thus, Karate really deserves to be promoted in schools and in communities, for obvious reasons, I believe.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, I am very much looking forward to exciting performances of Zambian and other African Karate-kas with high technical qualifications. I hope very much that these high performances in Karate also represent the true spirit of Karate and that all the young men and women practicing Karate will contribute to creating higher standards of performances in society, administration or business of Zambia and beyond in the long run.

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Finally, I wish all Karate-kas participating in today's Tournament best of luck for the matches and the spectators many moments of excitement.

Now, everyone, let me invite you to join me in addressing the common greeting of Karate – OSS! And thank you for your attention.