

**Remarks by H. E. Ambassador TAKEUCHI Kazuyuki at the Handover Ceremony
of the Project for the Extension of the School Building at the Bread of Life
School in Ndola, Copperbelt Province
Thursday, 12th October 2023**

Hon. Elisha Matambo, Copperbelt Provincial Minister,
His Worship Jones Kalyati, Mayor of Ndola City,
District Commissioner
Dr. Stephen Chishiko, Provincial Education Officer,
Ms. Chewe Chanda, District Education Board Secretary,
Mr. Emmanuel Bwalya, Officer Commanding, Ndola District Central Police,
Bishop George Chanda, Bread of Life Church International Ndola,

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and pleasure to be with you here today on the occasion of the hand-over ceremony of the project, “the Extension of the School Building at the Bread of Life School in Ndola, Copperbelt Province”, which is funded by Japan’s “Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP)”.

Let me firstly extend my sincere appreciation to the Guest of Honour, Provincial Minister of Copperbelt, Hon. Elisha Matambo, for his presence today. My gratitude also goes to all those involved in this project who have worked so hard to make today’s handover a reality, and to all of you here as witnesses of the completion of the project. With the total budget of 62,208 US dollars made available by the Grant Contract signed on 6th March 2019, 3 classrooms and toilet facility have been newly constructed at this school and the classrooms have also been furnished with desks and chairs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

According to the Census of Population and Housing, Copperbelt Province records a high prevalence of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in Zambia. This school has been offering OVC an opportunity for basic education as well as providing school uniforms for free since its establishment in 2009. The role played by the Bread of Life School in Ndola should never be underestimated. c Against this background, the school sought

assistance from the Japanese Government, and we have decided to extend the necessary support to the school to improve the overcrowded facilities and to enable the school to offer sustainable education for the children in the community. With the addition of 3 classrooms and toilets as well as the furniture in the classrooms funded by the GGP, the school managed to admit additional 90 pupils, and the total number of the pupils increased from 265 to 355. I am glad to know today that all of them are sitting comfortably in the classrooms and also that the Grade 7 results of the school were the best in Ndola District for the last school year.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The objective of this project matches the Eighth National Development Plan, focusing on enhancing access to the quality, equitable and inclusive education, which is also one of the main pillars of Japan's cooperation scopes. Despite the difficulties of Covid-19 pandemic, the school managed to complete the project, and kept providing the quality education to the children in the community including OVC. In addition, I received the great news that one of the graduates scored the best academic marks nationwide for Grade 12. I would like to highly commend the sincere and strenuous efforts by the school.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my appreciation to the Bread of Life School in Ndola and its staff for their dedicated work and the completion of the project. I wish them the best of luck for their further endeavors and also all of you present here today every success in the future. Last but not least, let me express my hope here. Zambia will celebrate its 60 years of independence next year, and so do the diplomatic relations of Japan and Zambia. I hope the school will continue to provide the quality education for children including OVC to overcome their difficult circumstances, and it is my wish to see them grow and become a bridge between Japan and Zambia.

Thank you for your attention.