

**Remarks by H. E. Mr. TAKEUCHI Kazuyuki, Ambassador of Japan to the
Republic of Zambia, at the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for the Grant
Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects
Tuesday, 19th March 2024**

Honourable Sylvia Masebo, Minister of Health,
Honourable Daglas Syakalima, Minister of Education,
Dr. Gideon Zulu, District Health Director,
Mrs. Charity Kasele, Head Teacher, Mutendere Secondary School,
Dr. Blessings Kasenge, Program Manager, BeRelevant Afrika,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to my residence today on the occasion of the signing ceremony of the Grant Contract for three projects which are funded by Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

Let me start by expressing my gratitude to Honourable Minister Masebo for accepting the role of Guest of Honour today. I would also like to express my gratitude to Honourable Minister Syakalima for your attendance to witness and celebrate the signing of the contracts for the projects. With today's signing, three projects in the Health and Education sectors will be officially sealed and launched for implementation and I am greatly honoured to have Honourable Ministers here with us for this celebration.

The first project named "The Project for the Provision of a Secondhand Ambulance in Kabwe District" is for enhancing access to quality medical service in rural area. It will be implemented by the Kabwe District Health Office with the total budget of approx. 88,000 US dollars. With a second-hand ambulance and its equipment purchased from Japan, it is expected that over 1,000 cases including more than 220 maternity cases will be able to receive better medical treatment during the emergency transport every month.

The other 2 projects are to improve educational environment for the overcrowded schools. With the "Project for Construction of Classroom Block of Mutendere Secondary School in Kafue, Lusaka Province", is., the very first classroom blocks will be constructed for Mutendere Secondary School in Zambia Compound in Kafue, with the total budget of approx. 40,000 US dollars. These classrooms will

contribute to relieve the congestion in the classes in both recipient school as well as Mutendere Primary school. which currently shares the classrooms with the recipient Secondary School.

The last project is titled “the Project for the Provision of School Furniture for Public Schools in Chingola, Copperbelt Province” and it will be implemented by BeRelevant Afrika, an NGO originally established in Chingola. With the total budget of approx. 22,000 US dollars, it will purchase study desks for 8 public schools in the area, where the shortage of the desks for students is a serious problem due to the rapidly increasing number of new students.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I believe that enhancing access to quality health care as well as to quality education are one of the most important development pillars of 8NDP. The new dawn government has been working hard to achieve these goals and we have seen significant improvement such as introduction of free education policy.

The government of Japan has supported many projects in this regard, and these 3 projects as well are expected to supplement to the Zambian government's efforts for the better. In health sector, the secondhand ambulance from Japan is expected to contribute to reduce maternal mortality in the Kabwe District. In education, millions of children can now attend school through the free education policy introduced in 2021 and the new classroom block as well as desks will make the congested classroom environment more appropriate for the quality education. I wish these three projects to make a significant contribution to Zambia's strenuous efforts for the better education and health care service.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 2024 marks the 60th anniversary of Zambia's independence and also of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Zambia. Just like the three projects we sign today, I strongly hope that Japan and Zambia will do more together for the better future, and the local beneficiaries from these projects also keep the chain of the cooperation to the next generation, for the long-lasting friendship of Japan and Zambia.

Thank you for your attention.