

**Remarks by H.E. Ambassador TAKEUCHI Kazuyuki on the Occasion
of Japanese NGO's Grant Contracts
Signing Ceremony
Lusaka, 20th March 2024**

Dr. George Sinyangwe, Permanent Secretary (Donor Coordination), Ministry of Health,

Ms. Mervis Nkomeshya, Permanent Secretary (Resettlement), Office of the Vice President,

Her Worship, Ms. Chilando Chitangala, Mayor of the City of Lusaka,

Mr. YAMASHITA Shuichi, Acting Country Representative, Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan),

Mr. TANAKA Yuta, Resident Representative, Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association (JATA),

Mr. TANAKA Yosuke, Project Manager, ROCINANTES ZAMBIA,

Representatives from the Media,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by expressing my condolences to the victims of the recent cholera outbreak and my respect for the efforts of the Government of Zambia to contain the outbreak. Allow me also to refer to the declaration of a state of emergency due to drought announced by President Hichilema at the end of February. I hope that the situation will be brought under control in due course.

It is a great honour and pleasure to welcome you to my residence on the occasion of the signing ceremony of the grant contracts for projects under the "*Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects*" by the Government of Japan. Today, grant contracts of approximately 1.6 million US dollars in total, for three projects by three different Japanese NGOs, will be officially sealed during this signing ceremony.

The Government of Japan will provide a grant of approximately 531 thousand US dollars to the Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan). It will support the implementation of the project "*Promoting of Basic Education in Maheba Refugee Settlement, Phase Two*". The grant will contribute to the provision of secondary education for children, literacy training for youth and adults, and capacity building

for teachers in Meheba.

I am pleased to share with you that, in the first phase of the project, which was implemented last year, the beneficiaries have expressed their satisfaction. Participants in the literacy training have gained skills, and the teacher training is tailored to the needs of the teachers and the participating teachers considered that the content they were looking for was covered.

It is my hope that the second phase of the project will continue to address the educational disparity among all Meheba residents, including refugees, former refugees and Zambians, leading to poverty reduction and harmonious development of the whole community.

The Government of Japan will also provide a grant of approximately 553 thousand US dollars to the Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association (JATA). The purpose of the grant is to facilitate the implementation of the *"Tuberculosis (TB) Control Project through Strengthening Case Finding and Management at Health Facilities in Lusaka District, Phase Two"* at Matero and Chilenje Level One Hospitals and George and Bauleni Clinics in Lusaka.

While the renovation of Bauleni Health Centre is underway as a result of the Project Phase One implemented last year, representatives of the beneficiary facilities and departmental staff have expressed a desire for the early introduction of X-ray machines, indicating a high level of need. This Project Phase Two will introduce high performance X-ray machines made in Japan and AI-based diagnostic imaging programmes. We expect to provide high quality TB control services.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In addition to the two projects I have already mentioned, the Government of Japan will provide a grant of approximately 510 thousand US dollars to ROCINANTES ZAMBIA. The purpose of this grant is to contribute to the *"Project to Improve Access to Medical Imaging Diagnosis in Chisamba and Chibombo Districts, Central Province"*.

Rural areas have less access to ultrasound and X-ray equipment compared to urban areas, resulting in wide disparities in medical services. Zambia is a huge country and access from rural areas to health-care facilities in urban areas is a major hurdle in

itself. Therefore, this project is expected to improve access to healthcare for many people by introducing portable X-ray machines equipped with AI, the latest equipment made in Japan, and rotating them to medical facilities in rural areas. The Government of Japan is pleased that this provision will contribute to universal health coverage in Zambia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Zambia and Japan. It coincides with the 60th anniversary of Zambia's independence. Zambia claimed its independence at the time of the Tokyo Olympics in 1964 and we may say that it was at that moment that the friendship between the two countries began.

Through these three projects supported by the Government of Japan, I am confident that we will be able to contribute to poverty reduction and promote economic development by improving universal health coverage and educational equity through TB control for the people of Zambia.

I would like to thank AAR Japan, JATA and Rocinantes for their tremendous contribution in the coming years, and I would like to conclude my remarks by expressing my sincere wish that these projects will become another solid foundation for our cooperation to flourish in the decades to come.

Thank you.