

**Remarks by Mr. OMINATO Satoshi,
Chargé d’Affaires ad interim at the Embassy of Japan in Zambia,
on the Occasion of
Handover Ceremony of Luano Health Post
on Friday, 28th June 2024**

Hon. Chushi Kasanda, Member of Parliament, Chisamba,
Chief Chamuka,

Dr. Elijah Mutoloki, Director, Central Province Health Office,

Mr. Isaac Banda, Public Health Specialist, Central Province Health Office,

Dr. Kayoko Yamamoto, Organisation to support Rural Medicine in Zambia (ORMZ),

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to have an opportunity to celebrate the completion and handover of the Luano Health Post with all of you today. On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to commend the “Organisation to support Rural Medicine in Zambia (ORMZ)” and the people of Luano for their efforts and contributions to establish this Health Post. Taking this opportunity, I would like to touch upon some of the key achievements of Japanese cooperation to date in the health sector in Zambia.

Since Zambia's independence, Japan has provided a wide range of assistance on health, starting with the construction of a neonatal ward at the University Teaching Hospital in 1983, hospital construction and management assistance in Lusaka, and currently more hospitals are under construction in the Copperbelt province. Furthermore, Japan's cooperation goes on to zoonosis research assistance to the University of Zambia, and technical assistance for HIV/AIDS, response to COVID-19, and recent assistance against the cholera outbreak. I would also like to reiterate the fact that since 1970, more than 1,600 volunteers including the ones in the health sector have been dispatched from Japan to locations throughout Zambia. In addition to all such assistance, the Japanese government has also supported Japanese NGOs engaged in grassroots activities in rural areas, such as maternal and child health care and tuberculosis control. Today, we are very pleased and proud to see another monumental achievement supported by the people of Japan: the Health Post built by the ORMZ will be handed over to the Chisamba District Office, and you, Luano people, will no longer have to walk for hours to a medical facility far away when you are not feeling well.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to introduce some of the ORMZ's activities in Zambia and its achievements over the past 11 years. Did you know that the ORMZ was established by one Japanese female doctor who single-handedly started providing medical assistance to help people living in rural areas of Zambia without medical facilities? That doctor is Dr. Kayoko YAMAMOTO.

After serving for community health care in Japan for 15 years, Dr. Yamamoto became interested in engaging in medical health in developing countries, and started to gain various international experiences, including through an assignment in Zambia as an expert of JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency).

Through her work in Zambia, she strongly felt the need to improve the medical environment in rural areas where people live far away from hospitals and health centres. Then, Dr. Yamamoto decided to obtain a medical licence in Zambia and started a mobile medical practice in 2011. In the following year, together with other Japanese donors, the ORMZ was established to support Dr. Yamamoto's work in Zambia. Since then, for 11 years, the ORMZ has provided medical care to over 43,000 people in the Chisamba district, trained 32 community health workers, drilled 22 boreholes, and constructed 9 health facilities. It is worthy of special mention that ORMZ's activities are not limited to providing regular health care services, but its services are comprehensive and truly based on communities' needs.

Recognising such remarkable achievements by Dr. Yamamoto and the ORMZ that I just mentioned and also for their contribution to promoting mutual understanding, friendship and goodwill between Japan and Zambia, as well as international cooperation through their dedicated work, Ambassador of Japan to Zambia, Mr. Takeuchi, has decided to award the ORMZ with the Ambassador's Commendation. Ambassador regrets that he is unable to attend this ceremony and to present this award to the ORMZ in person today due to his other engagements. Allow me to read his congratulatory message for the ORMZ on his behalf.

“With the support of dedicated Japanese donors, the ORMZ has contributed significantly to the development of the health sector in rural areas of Zambia. It has provided

comprehensive assistance including medical consultations and treatment, human resource development, and medical facility construction in remote areas in Zambia where medical services are still insufficient. We are deeply indebted to Dr. Yamamoto and generous donors to the ORMZ who have spent their private funds and time to support the people of Zambia over the past 11 years. It is my hope that the trained community health workers and the facilities that have been built by the ORMZ will continue to play a pivotal role to sustain the region's health environment for years to come. Last but not least, we wish the people of Luano good health and long life and congratulate the ORMZ on the Ambassador's Commendation."

Kweelana amilimo mibotu yabekwa aba Dr. Yamamoto ambunga ya ORMZ kuleta lukamantano aluyando alimwi akuyumya zilongwe akati achisi cha Japan achisi cha Zambia, baiminzi bachisi cha Japan omuno muchisi cha Zambia ba Ambassador Takeuchi bapa bulumbaizyi akukulwaizya kumbunga ya ORMZ. Nobuleya, amundizumizye kubala mulumbe wabulumbaizyi kuzwa kuli ba Ambassador.

"Kwiinda mulugwasyo alukamantano lwabantu bakuchisi cha Japan, bambunga ya ORMZ baleta lusumpuko ku mutabi ulanganya nseba zyabantu mu minzi minji muchisi cha Zambia. Mbunga eeyi ya ORMZ yagwasya kapati kuchibeela chakuiisha babelesi baku chooko chilanganya nseba zyabantu, kusilika bantu bachiswa, alimwi a mayake azibaddela mumenzi. Twapa kulumba kuli ba Dr. Yamamoto ambunga yabo iipa lugwasho kuli ba ORMZ kubelesha mali aazwa munkomo zyabo alimwi aciindi cabo kusumpula maumi abantu muchisi cha Zambia kwa myaka iili kumi a omwe. Ndishoma kuti babelesi bakaishigwa kunkamu eei azibadela zyakayakwa ambunga ya ORMZ balatolelela kusumpula maumi aabantu okuno ku Luano kwa mwaka minji iboola kumbele. Akumaninizya, ndilombozya buumi bubotu abukale bwa myaka minji kulindinwe nobantu baku Luano. Ndalumbaizya kapati mbunga ya ORMZ yapegwa bulumbaizyi bwa ba Ambassador."

Now I would like to present the Ambassador's Commendation to the ORMZ on his behalf.

Congratulations!

Finally, I would like to conclude my remarks by kindly asking you to take good care of the Luano Health Post and assuring you that the Government of Japan will continue to support the efforts of the Government of Zambia to develop the health sector.

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Thank you.

(End)