

**Remarks by H.E. Mr. TAKEUCHI Kazuyuki,  
Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zambia,  
On the Occasion of the Handover Ceremony of the Emergency Grant  
Aid in Response to the Drought in Zambia through the World Food  
Program (WFP)  
Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

Dr. Gabriel Pollen, The National Coordinator for The Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU),

Ms. Cissy Byenkya Kabasuuga, The World Food Programme Country Director

Directors and Other Senior Government Officials present,

Media representatives,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to be here with you all today at the handover ceremony of the Emergency Grant Aid in Response to the Drought in Zambia.

It is a treasured privilege for me to have the opportunity to address you all on the occasion of the official handover of the Emergency Grant Aid that will provide emergency food assistance through the World Food Programme (WFP) to approximately 8,400 of the most vulnerable households affected by the drought in the Southern Province.

As most of you may recall, on 1<sup>st</sup> February last year, during the presentation of my credentials at State House to His Excellency President Hakainde Hichilema, I expressed my commitment to further strengthen the friendship between our two countries and to contribute to the advancement of our bilateral relations. Today, I am truly delighted to hand over this grant assistance to the people of Zambia as token of our friendship and bilateral cooperation.

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Zambia. Over the past six decades, our two countries have built a

profound cooperative relationship across many fields, including the disaster management.

The handover of this emergency food aid in this milestone year of our diplomatic ties represents and renews our strong commitment to further development of the bilateral relations.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt sympathies for those who are affected by the drought and the drought-related challenges currently Zambia is facing. As all of us have seen, the drought has had a significant impact on agriculture and food supplies, which is also affecting the smooth running of the other sectors and the entire economy as well.

In response, the Japanese government decided, on 15<sup>th</sup> August, to provide emergency food relief through grant aid of 2 million US dollars to Zambia to alleviate the effects of the drought.

Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japan remains committed to further strengthening its cooperation with Zambia, and to ensuring that our support contributes to the achievement of food and nutrition security in both good and disaster years. This is aligned with Zambia's Eighth National Development Plan and Vision 2030 for a food secure and prosperous Zambia.

I am confident that our partnership will deepen further and contribute to Zambia's sustainable development and the well-being of its people for another 60 years to come.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere hope that the benefits of this grant aid will endure for many years to come and trust that the ties between Japan and Zambia will continue to strengthen as the two countries seek to progress together.

I thank you.

(End)