

Remarks by H.E Mr. TAKEUCHI Kazuyuki, Ambassador of Japan to the
Republic of Zambia, on the Occasion of the Ground-Breaking Ceremony of
the Kitwe Vocational Training Centre and Handover of Hitachi Construction
Machinery's Donation
Tuesday, 12th November 2024

Hon. Felix Mutati, Minister of Technology and Science,
Mr. Juan Pablo, UNIDO Head of Unit,
Mr. SAITO Nobuhiko, President, Hitachi Construction Machinery Zambia,
Mr. Chrispin Kakoma, Principal, Kitwe Vocational Training Centre,
Media Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to be here today on the occasion of the Ground-breaking Ceremony of the Kitwe Vocational Training Centre (KVTC) and handover of construction machinery from Hitachi Construction Machinery. The construction of the Centre and donation of the machinery are part of “the Project for Promoting Youth Employment through Construction Equipment Operating Skills Training,” which has been conceptualized and worked out in harmony among the stakeholders concerned, namely the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Government of Zambia, Hitachi Construction Machinery Zambia and the Government of Japan.

The project, which runs over a period of four years from 2021 to 2025, has been implemented at a total cost of approximately 3.6 million US dollars, funded by the grant assistance of the Government of Japan. It aims to support the Zambian government in providing continuous and effective vocational training for construction equipment operators on its own, thereby expanding employment opportunities for young people, and ultimately contributing to the country's infrastructure development and economic growth.

We are here today to witness the ground-breaking of the Centre and

the donation of construction machinery by Hitachi. The combination of the training centre and high-quality machinery will enable more young people to acquire much-needed skills on the operation of construction equipment. I am informed that more than 125 skilled operators will graduate from this Centre annually. They are expected to contribute to the development of Zambia, as the demand for technical skills for heavy machinery operators is increasing in the infrastructure sector. Given this impact, I am convinced that this project is a milestone for this Centre, the Ministry of Technology and Science, and the whole country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This project is in line with Japan's Country Development Policy for Zambia, with a special focus on industrial revitalization and improvement of infrastructure and social services to support Zambia's economic activities. The donation of the machinery by Hitachi Construction Machinery will increase the production of trained machinery operators, thereby increasing the production capacity, as machines will be operated by trained personnel.

I am delighted to note that Hitachi will also donate training aids to the Centre. The cut sections will enable students to better understand the inner workings of the heavy equipment they would operate, enhancing their overall learning experience. This project is a good example of how Public-Private Development Partnerships can effectively support industry-relevant skills development that drives industrial development. Hitachi Construction Machinery has also provided technical inputs to curricula development, facilitated training of trainers both in Zambia and in Japan, and donated training materials and aids—all to help ensure that graduates of the Centre are equipped with market relevant skills and to support their transition to work. The Government of Japan is committed to continuing to encourage such partnerships for the effective and efficient delivery of development assistance.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to highlight that Zambia's 60th independence anniversary also marks the establishment of diplomatic

relations between our two countries. So just like today's project, I strongly believe and hope that Japan and Zambia will work together even more for a better future. Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere wishes for the success of this project and all the best to those who are involved.

Thank you for your attention.

(End)