

**Remarks by Ambassador TAKEUCHI Kazuyuki at the Grant Contract
Signing Ceremony for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human
Security Projects**

Tuesday, 25th February 2025

Honourable Douglas Syakalima, Minister of Education,
Honourable Imanga Wamunyima Jr., Member of Parliament, Nalolo Constituency
Ms. Peggy Chilema, Provincial Education Officer, Western Province,
Ms. Simutani Mukololo, Head Teacher, Sianda Secondary School,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour to stand before you today on this special occasion. First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Honourable Minister Syakalima and all our distinguished guests for taking the time to join us here. Your presence is a testament to your dedication to education and the future of our children.

Today, we have gathered to celebrate the launch of a meaningful project at Sianda Secondary School in Nalolo District, Western Province. This initiative, made possible with a total grant of up to approximately 65,000 US dollars, includes the construction of a classroom block and the provision of office furniture. The impact of this project goes far beyond infrastructure—it is a crucial step toward providing a better learning environment for the students in Nalolo District.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to state that Sianda Secondary School follows in the footsteps of Sianda Primary School, which was established in 1918. Currently, Sianda Secondary School is one of the only four secondary schools in Nalolo District, accepting graduates from ten surrounding primary schools. However, the school lacks its own building and is using four out of the eight classrooms at Sianda Primary School. This project would change that reality. The construction of a 1×3 classroom block will be the first tangible structure of Sianda Secondary School, benefiting approximately 120 Grade 9 and 12 students by providing dedicated indoor classrooms for remedial and supplementary lessons. Moreover, it will ease congestion in primary school classes, allowing Grade 1 to 6 students to learn in

smaller class sizes and enabling Grade 7 students to receive remedial education in a more conducive learning environment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is pleasing to note that beyond the physical construction of classroom, this project also carries a deeper meaning. In Japan, we have a concept called "go-en" (ご縁) which is translated as a special connection or bond that brings people together, sometimes in ways beyond our control. It is through such a connection that this project was made possible. A dedicated teacher, who recently returned from studying in Japan, took the initiative to reach out to the embassy after learning about our grant programme. His passion for bringing high-quality education from Japan to the children of Zambia, ensuring they receive the same level of learning without having to leave their country, was truly inspiring. Allow me to introduce Mr. Haambokoma, Deputy Head Teacher of Sianda Secondary School. Mr. Haambokoma, may you please stand for people to see you? Thank you, Mr. Haambokoma. You may be seated.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This "go-en" connection has brought us together today. It is not just about one school or one project; it is about building a bridge between nations, fostering future generations who will continue to connect Japan and Zambia through education. This new bond gives us hope for more collaboration, mutual understanding and shared progress.

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has committed and strived for this project. May this classroom block be the foundation for many dreams to take flight. Let us continue to work together to provide quality education for the children in Zambia, for they are the future of our nations.

Thank you.

(End)