

Remarks by H.E. Mr. TAKEUCHI Kazuyuki, Ambassador of Japan to the  
Republic of Zambia, at the Ceremony for Signing and Exchange of  
Notes for the Provision of Mineral Analysis Instruments under the  
Economic and Social Development Programme

Thursday, 13 March 2025

Hon. Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane, Minister of Finance and National Planning,  
Permanent Secretaries and Senior Government Officials Present,  
Representatives from Media Houses,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I come today to sign and exchange notes for the provision of mineral analysis instruments under the Economic and Social Development Programme, with Honourable Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane, Minister of Finance. Under the programme the Government of Japan will provide one hundred and eighty two million Japanese yen (¥182,000,000), which is approximately 1.2 million US dollars, to support the procurement of laboratory equipment at the Geological Survey Department under the Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development, for monitoring and regulation of the minerals industry in Zambia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Japan recognises the importance of Zambia's Eighth National Development Plan or 8NDP, which is a medium-term development plan. The 8NDP aims to promote trade and investment in industries such as mining for economic reform and job creation. To complement this, the Government of the Republic of Zambia has developed the National Three (3) Million Metric Tonnes Copper Production strategy to stimulate investment in the mining sector, so as to ramp up copper production from the current average of about 800,000 metric tonnes annually to three (3) million metric tonnes annually by the year 2031.

Zambia's mining industry is one of the crucial sectors to its economic recovery, with copper production accounting for over 70% of the country's export revenue. However, the country's geological data has not been updated since it was developed in the 1970s, and this has been one of the barriers to attracting private sector investment in exploration and mining. In addition, the lack of equipment to identify the composition of minerals has also been a serious challenge to analyzing them with sufficiency accuracy.

It is against this background that the Government of Japan has decided to provide this grant aid, which is expected to improve the mineral analysis capacity and update the geological data, and help increase mineral extraction and exports. It is expected

(Check against delivery)

that the exploration and mining activities will accelerate, thereby contributing to increased national tax revenues and poverty reduction in the country through economic and social development, as outlined in Zambia's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and the long-term development plan of the country "Vision 2030."

The Government of Japan hopes to contribute to value addition to minerals through the use of the laboratory equipment provided under this grant and the promotion of the mining sector as a whole, by strengthening Zambia's mineral analysis capacity. In the TICAD 8 Tunis Declaration, which is the outcome document of the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development held in August 2022, Japan stated that it is necessary to build transparent markets for important minerals in cooperation with African countries in order to realize value addition to natural resources and promote investment in processing. It is pleasing to note that this grant aid is in line with this.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In August 2023, the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan visited Zambia and signed the Joint Statement on Cooperation in Minerals Sector with the Minister of Mines and Minerals Development of the Republic of Zambia, Honourable Kabuswe. The following year, in April 2024, Honourable Kabuswe visited Japan and gave a lecture on Zambia's mining policy and investment environment at a mining investment seminar.

In February this year, during President Hichilema's visit to Japan, at the summit meeting with Japan's Prime Minister Ishiba, the two leaders confirmed the partnership between Japan and Zambia on development cooperation in the mining sector. As Japan and Zambia move beyond the milestone of 60 years of diplomatic relations and enter a new phase, the confirmation of strengthening of cooperation in the mining sector at this high level will accelerate the cooperative relationship between the two countries, and the decision to extend this grant aid embodies that.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I conclude my remarks by expressing my sincere hope that this cooperation through the provision of equipment under the Economic and Social Development Programme, will further strengthen the relations between Japan and Zambia.

I thank you.

(End)