

**Remarks of H.E. Mr. TAKEUCHI Kazuyuki, Ambassador of Japan to
the Republic of Zambia,
On the Occasion of the Handover Ceremony of Portable Digital X-ray
Machines
27th March 2025**

Hon. Elijah Muchima, Minister of Health,
Dr. Kennedy Lishimpi, Permanent Secretary, Technical Services, Ministry of Health,
Senior Government Officials,
Hospital Officials,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for gathering here today. I also wish to express my deep appreciation to Honourable Elijah Muchima, Minister of Health, for his presence, as well as to the officials from the Ministry of Health, the Provincial and District Health Offices, and all medical professionals.

The "Project to Improve Access to Medical Imaging Diagnosis in Chisamba and Chibombo Districts, Central Province" has been implemented by the Japanese NGO "ROCINANTES" since last March with a grant of approximately 510,000 US dollars from the Government of Japan. By providing the portable digital X-ray machines to hospitals in Chisamba and Chibombo Districts, the project aims to improve the residents' access to medical imaging diagnosis.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are aware, X-ray imaging equipment is an indispensable diagnostic tool in modern medicine, required in every health facility for accurate and efficient diagnosis. However, due to its high cost, it has not been readily available in most health facilities especially in rural areas, thus causing the local citizens difficulties in acquiring X-ray diagnostics.

In Zambia, there is a huge gap in the level of medical service between urban and rural areas. In bridging this gap, this project has introduced four portable digital X-ray machines to hospitals in Chisamba and Chibombo Districts, thereby enhancing the people's access to medical imaging in rural areas. I am confident that this provision will

bring a significant change to the early diagnosis of tuberculosis, one of the leading causes of death in Zambia, and many more other diseases that can be detected by using the X-ray.

I would like to underscore that this initiative aligns with Zambia's 8th National Development Plan (8NDP) for combating infectious diseases, including tuberculosis, and contributes to the WHO's global efforts to end the tuberculosis epidemic. That is why today, I am very pleased to hand over the portable digital X-ray machines to the Ministry of Health.

The portable digital X-ray machines handed over today are the state-of-the-art equipment manufactured by Fujifilm Corporation of Japan. They are compact and lightweight, making them very easy to transport, use and maintain. They are rechargeable and can be used in areas that do not have constant power supply. Furthermore, they do not require film, resulting in low operational costs and are AI-powered, which makes it possible to enhance their diagnostic accuracy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japan has been making significant contributions to Zambia's healthcare sector. Aside from this project, we are currently working to improve medical access by constructing hospitals in populous locations such as Lusaka and the Copperbelt Province. These collaborations are a testament to our continuous support, further strengthening our friendship and trust. Japan's support should also be seen beyond the bilateral relations. During President Hichilema's visit to Japan last month, the President and Japan's Prime Minister Ishiba agreed to work together to achieve global health through collaboration among industry, government and academia in both countries. With this in mind, Japan will continue its support to Zambia's health sector in the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude my remarks, I sincerely hope that these portable digital X-ray machines will bring innovation to medical diagnostics in these two districts and that the early diagnosis of tuberculosis will save many lives.

(Check against delivery)

I am also confident that it will also make the daily tasks of medical professionals more efficient and effective, and significantly contribute to improving Zambia's healthcare system.

Once again, I would like to express my deep gratitude to all stakeholders and wish that this project will continue to support the health of many people in the future.

Thank you very much.

(End)