

**Remarks by H.E. Mr. TAKEUCHI Kazuyuki, Ambassador of Japan to  
the Republic of Zambia  
On the Occasion of the Handover Ceremony of an Ambulance to  
Kabwe District Health Office  
8<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

Hon. Mwabashike Nkulukusa, Central Province Minister,  
Dr. Milner Mwanakampwe, Central Province Permanent Secretary,  
represented by Mr. Brave Mazuba, Assistant Secretary,  
Mr. Lennox Shimwambwa, Kabwe District Commissioner, represented by  
Mr. Stanford Petulu, District Administrative Officer  
Dr. Elijah Mutoloki, Central Province Health Director, represented by Dr.  
Evaristo Chanda, District Health Officer,  
All officials from the provincial and District Health Offices,  
Senior Government Officials,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for attending today's handover ceremony. I especially extend my sincere appreciation to Honourable Mwabashike Nkulukusa, Provincial Minister, who is representing Honourable Elijah Muchima, Minister of Health for your presence,

Today, on behalf of the government of Japan, I am pleased to hand over a ambulance and accompanying emergency medical equipment to the Kabwe District Health Office, under the framework of Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects with a grant of approximately 80,000 US dollars.

The objective of this project is to improve the emergency patient transportation system in Kabwe District, particularly in underserved areas where access to advanced medical services is extremely limited. By providing this ambulance, it is my hope that the hospital will be able to provide faster and safer transport of patients, ensuring timely and appropriate medical intervention.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you may know, Kabwe District covers a wide area with 42 health centres that often need to refer emergency cases to higher-level facilities. However, due to the ageing condition of ambulance, it is my understanding that there is no functional ambulances in operation. In many cases, ordinary vehicles without medical equipment were being used for emergency transport, putting patients at risk and depriving them of life-saving care during transfer.

With the provision of this ambulance, it will directly benefit approximately 270,000 residents of Kabwe District where an average of 1,000 emergency patients per month is transferred. This support contributes not only to improved patient outcomes, but also to Zambia's broader goal of achieving equitable access to quality healthcare services in rural and peri-urban areas.

I also would like to underscore that this assistance also aligns with Japan's Country Assistant Policy for Zambia, which identifies the improvement of healthcare access as a key priority. In addition, it supports Zambia's National Decentralization policy by strengthening the capacity of local health institutions to provide essential services.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japan has been committed to supporting Zambia's health sector. Over the past ten years, the embassy of Japan has directly provided the grant at an average of one health-related project per year through the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects, which represents a quarter of the overall 37 assisted projects. In addition to this project in Kabwe, the embassy is currently working with local clinic in Lusaka to improve diagnosis capability by providing them equipment for the early detection and treatment of infectious diseases. These assistances, directly from Japanese embassy, aims to enhance both the residents' access to and the quality of healthcare services throughout the country and showcase the importance the Government of Japan put in the health sector.

It is my strong belief that improved health system forms the foundation of economic growth and sustainable development of the country. With this fact

*(Check against delivery)*

in mind, during President Hichilema's recent visit to Japan, both Japanese and Zambian governments reaffirmed our commitment to promote global health through our joint efforts among governments, academia, and the private sector.

To conclude my remarks, I sincerely hope that the ambulance handed over today will contribute significantly to strengthening emergency medical response in Kabwe District, and ultimately, to saving many precious lives.

I would like to thank all stakeholders involved in the successful implementation of this project. May this initiative continue to bring hope and better health to the people of Kabwe.

Thank you very much.

(End)