

**Remarks by Mr. OMINATO Satoshi,  
Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Japan,  
On the Occasion of the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Project for the  
Development of Basic Infrastructure in Settlements for Displaced Persons  
and their Host Communities in the Republic of Zambia**

**Mayukwayukwa Settlement, Western Province  
Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025**

Muzuhile Chwani. (How are you?)

Allow me to start by acknowledging the presence of:

Honourable Kapelwa Mbangweta, Member of Parliament and Minister for  
Western Province,

Ms. Mavis Nkomeshya, Permanent Secretary for Resettlement, Office of the  
Vice President,

District Commissioner,

Representative of Traditional Leadership,

Mr. Tovine Kaneneka, Commissioner for Refugees,

Ms. Preeta Law, Resident Representative, UNHCR Zambia,

Mr. Laurent Rudasingwa, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Zambia,

Mr. Cooper Chibomba, Director of the Resettlement Division, Office of the Vice  
President,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here on behalf of the Government of Japan for the groundbreaking ceremony for the commencement of construction works in the Mayukwayukwa Resettlement under the "Project for the Development of Basic Infrastructure in Settlements for the Displaced Persons and their Host Communities in the Republic of Zambia." The Government of Japan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed an agreement for this project early this year in January in the presence of Her Honour Mrs. W.K. Mutale Nalumango, Vice President of the Republic of Zambia.

This project aims at improving infrastructure as well as access to the social services in resettlement communities, and eventually leading to improvement of livelihood of displaced persons and host communities, thereby strengthening local integration, and ultimately contributing to the peaceful co-habitation of both displaced persons and host communities.

In implementing this project, the Government of Japan has provided a grant amounting to about 5.9 million US dollars through UNDP to enhance local communities' capacity for sustainable resettlement through infrastructure development, building resilience, and fostering social cohesion. This is to ensure realisation of dignified living conditions, access to economic opportunities, and social integration for the forcibly displaced persons in the Meheba and Mayukwayukwa Resettlements by the year 2028.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In recognising this significant milestone in our joint efforts to improve the quality of life for both displaced persons and host communities, allow me to underscore that Japan is committed to supporting collective efforts in addressing humanitarian crises worldwide through its "Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus" approach; that includes easing pressure on host communities, enhancing self-reliance as well as creating a conducive environment for safe, dignified and voluntary return for displaced persons.

The Government of Japan commends the Government of Zambia for having been hosting Persons of Concern since 1953 way before its independence. And as of today, the number of such persons stands at about 110,000 including refugees and other forcibly displaced persons at locations across the country, among which is the Mayukwayukwa Settlement here in Western Province.

I would also like to commend Zambia for emerging as a shining example of compassion and care, offering a safe haven for those fleeing wars, conflicts and persecution from neighbouring countries, and providing them with a sanctuary to rebuild their lives. I would like to underscore the progressive efforts by the Zambian Government to ensure that the first-ever National Refugee Policy and Implementation Plan were enforced fully to serve as a roadmap in enhancing the

well-being of the Persons of Concern. This policy ensures that the Persons of Concern are treated not just as asylum seekers, but as human beings with dignity, dreams and aspirations.

The Government of Japan is also aware and fully in support of the local integration initiative of the Zambian Government which is designed to advance sustainable solutions for former refugees still in the country who seek to integrate locally. In pursuit of this initiative, the Government of Japan desires to support both former refugees and the host communities in the Meheba and Mayukwayukwa Settlements through this grant project as well as JICA's project, with a view to ensuring that the communities are self-sustaining and live in harmony with prosperity and peace.

In concluding my remarks, allow me to sincerely wish this project every success in its implementation process and to express my sincere hope that it will contribute to further strengthening of the cordial relations that exist between the peoples and governments of Japan and Zambia.

Litumezi Shangwe! (Thank you very much!)

(End)