

**Remarks by H.E. Mr. TAKEUCHI Kazuyuki  
Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zambia  
On the Occasion of the 14th Japanese Ambassador's Karate Tournament  
21<sup>st</sup> September 2025**

Honourable Elvis Nkandu, Minister of Youth, Sport and Arts of the Republic of Zambia,  
Mr. Simba Mangaba, Executive Director, Kyokushin Kenbukaikan International represented  
by Mr. Chileshe Kangwa, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts,  
Mr. Chidi Amadi, Marketing Manager, CFAO Mobility Zambia / Toyota Zambia,  
Karate-kas participating in this tournament,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Members of the Press,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 14<sup>th</sup> Japanese Ambassador's Karate Tournament. I'm reliably informed that Karate was introduced in Zambia in the 1970s as a part-time martial art mainly within the defence forces, but since then it has grown leaps and bounds resulting in Zambian karate-kas posting respectable results at regional and international tournaments. So many karate clubs and academies have also been established. It is my sincere hope that this rapid growth can spread to far flung and rural areas and among young people to keep them away from unproductive vices.

I would like to reaffirm that Karate is not just about winning or losing. It is a discipline that fosters personal growth, cultivates discipline, and builds character. Through Karate, individuals develop essential qualities such as resilience, leadership, and teamwork—qualities that are invaluable not only in the martial arts arena but also in our communities, workplaces, and society at large.

In this regard, Karate plays a vital role in human resource development. It teaches us the importance of setting goals, overcoming challenges, and showing respect for one another. For young Karate-kas, the practice of Karate is a journey of self-discovery, where they learn to push their limits, recognise their strengths and build the confidence that will serve them in every aspect of their lives. Through tournaments such as this, we not only contribute to the development of individuals but also strengthening of our communities, as we help to develop our young Karate-kas into the leaders of tomorrow.

Additionally, I am particularly delighted that the organisers have also invited karate-

kas from other countries, namely Namibia, Malawi and Zimbabwe. This is a further testament that Karate and its spirit are growing fast not only in Zambia, but the whole region, thereby expanding the perspective on values among the citizens of the whole region through Karate.

Finally, I wish all Karate-kas participating in today's Tournament the best of luck in their respective categories. As the Karate teaches self-discipline, I urge the winners to be magnanimous in victory and I urge the losers to take it in their stride and strive to do better next year. May they continue to inspire us all with their dedication, discipline, and passion for Karate.

Thank you