

**Remarks by Ambassador TAKEUCHI Kazuyuki at the Grant
Contract Signing Ceremony for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots
Human Security Projects
Monday, 10th November 2025**

Honourable Mulambo Haimbe, Area Member of Parliament and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, represented by Mr. Joseph Mwila, Professional Assistant at the office of Area Member of Parliament for Lusaka Central Constituency,
Dr. Judy Muzona, Lusaka District Education Board Secretary,
Mr. Kelly Hikalungu, Head Teacher of Prince Takamado School,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour to welcome you all today on this special occasion.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Honourable Haimbe and all our distinguished guests for taking the time to join me. Your presence is a clear testament to your dedication to education and to the future of our children.

Today, we have gathered to celebrate the launch of a meaningful project at Prince Takamado School in Bauleni Compound, Lusaka District. This project, made possible through our grassroots grant of approximately 23,000 US dollars, includes the rehabilitation of the ablution block and the installation of a solar-powered water pump. The impact of this project goes far beyond improvement of the school's infrastructure—it represents a crucial step towards providing a healthier and more conducive learning environment for the children of Bauleni Compound.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to note that Prince Takamado School stands as a lasting symbol of Japan and Zambia's shared commitment to educational development. The school is one of the eight schools constructed in 1999 with Japan's Grant Aid. It was officially inaugurated in the presence of Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Takamado, alongside His Excellency the late President Chiluba, in December of that year. To commemorate this loyal visit to Zambia, and at the proposal of the Zambian side, the school was named after Prince Takamado. Today, it remains the only public school in Bauleni Compound offering both pre-primary and primary education, serving for the community.

However, following years of wear and tear and the steady increase in student enrolment, the school's facilities—particularly the ablution block and water infrastructure—have become increasingly difficult to maintain. This deterioration has created unsanitary conditions, leading to frequent student absences—averaging between 15 and 20 cases per week—and posing serious health and hygiene risks to both children and school staff.

Through this assistance by the Government of Japan, approximately 2,800 pupils and 36 teachers will benefit from a safer and more hygienic environment, which will help reduce waterborne diseases and related absenteeism. Beyond such positive impact, we must remember that what it may seem like a simple improvement plays a significant role in students' everyday school experience. Being able to use a clean and functioning bathroom, and return to class without discomfort or disruption, should never be taken for granted. Clean and healthy facilities contribute directly to students' focus, dignity, and overall learning outcomes.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to see that, more than 25 years since its construction, the school continues to accommodate children as the only public primary school in the community. By providing access to basic education, it plays a fundamental role in fostering children with social and economic mobility—the very first step in breaking the cycles of poverty and unemployment that remain prevalent in Bauleni. Despite numerous challenges, particularly inadequate water infrastructure and the growing number of students, the school's staff and the PTA have gone beyond their formal duties, contributing their own time, labour, and resources to sustain daily operations.

I would like to commend their dedication that reflects a remarkable sense of responsibility and a strong community spirit. This resilience ensures that education remains accessible to all children in the community, reinforcing the foundation for Zambia's long-term development. This spirit of collective effort extends beyond Bauleni. Honourable Haimbe, who has shown unwavering commitment to improving educational environments in local communities, has taken great interest in this project, and it is a true honour to have you with us today. Japan is proud to continue its long-standing support for Zambia's education sector. This project embodies the enduring friendship and people-to-people cooperation between Japan and Zambia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has worked tirelessly to formulate and carry out this project to fruition. It is my sincere hope that the improved water and sanitation facilities will allow students to focus on their studies, to find joy in learning, and to build the foundations for their future. Let us continue to work hand in hand to ensure that every child in Zambia has access to quality education as they are the future of our nations.

Thank you for your attention.

(End)