

Remarks of Mr. OMINATO Satoshi,
Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Zambia,
At the Launch Ceremony of "Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in Basic
Education in Botswana, Malawi, and Zambia" Project funded by the
Government of Japan to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
Organization.
At the Twangale Park Hotel, Lusaka
19th November 2025

Officials from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Tourism,
Head teachers and focal teachers from the six pilot schools participating in the
project,
Members of the Zambia National Commission for UNESCO,
Media representatives,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to be here today on the occasion of the launch ceremony
of "Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in Basic Education in Botswana,
Malawi, and Zambia." This project is funded by the Japanese government through
UNESCO and is designed to promote efforts to protect Zambia's intangible
cultural heritage.

Once lost, intangible cultural heritage cannot be recovered. Therefore,
urgent steps must be taken to preserve and promote it. The Japanese
government took the lead in creating the Convention for the Safeguarding of the
Intangible Cultural Heritage, which came into effect in 2006. Since then, we
have continued to support efforts worldwide to protect various intangible cultural
heritages. In Zambia, the Japanese government has already supported the
protection of the intangible cultural heritage of the "Makishi masquerade" and the
"Gule Wamkulu."

We understand that the aim of this project is to incorporate intangible
cultural heritage into basic education, and we recognise it as a project that can

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truly be at the leading edge of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. I heard that in Africa, “when an elder dies, a library burns.” This proverb highlights the significant role that intangible cultural heritage plays in Africa, and the Government of Japan sincerely hopes that this project will contribute to preserving numerous cultural assets and that all stakeholders will play their part in protecting your country's rich culture.

Thank you very much.

(END)