

**REMARKS BY H.E. MR. AKIO EGAWA**  
**AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**  
**ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE GRANT CONTRACT**  
**WITH ROTARY CLUB OF LUSAKA CENTRAL**  
**AT THE CHANCERY, EMBASSY OF JAPAN, LUSAKA, 7 MARCH 2013**

Mr. George Ndung'u, Past President and trustee of the Youth Skills Training Center of Rotary Club of Lusaka Central,

Mr. Gilbert Chibambula, President, Rotary Club of Lusaka Central,

Mr. Steffen Munziner, Chairperson, Project Committee,

Members and staff of Rotary Club of Lusaka Central,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to be here today at this signing ceremony for the Grant Contract between the Embassy of Japan and Rotary Club of Lusaka Central. The purpose of the Grant is to enable the Organisation to implement **The Project for Construction of a Youth Skills Training Centre in Lusaka City.**

This Grant is being provided under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects Programme of the Government of Japan. This programme was introduced in Zambia in 1990 and its primary objective is to support various development and human security projects at the grassroots level. More than 150 projects have been funded and implemented in Zambia since its inception.

Rotary Club of Lusaka Central has been responsible for implementing community based projects in various parts of Zambia that can help uplift the living standards of needy communities, most notable of which include:

- The Marshila Community School Project in Chongwe, which involved construction of the community school and provision of water and training aids.
- The Mutendere Orphanage Project, which involved the provision of water and a feeding programme.
- Mumbwa Skills Training Project, which involved empowering youth and training them in design, tailoring, poultry rearing and entrepreneurship.

Through these projects, it can be seen that the Rotary Club has been contributing positively to the enhancement of the welfare of the people in communities.

After all the successful projects implemented by Rotary Club of Lusaka Central, yet another project in Lusaka City has been planned and discussed. It is in appreciation of the efforts being made by Rotary Club of Lusaka Central that today, the Government of Japan is pleased to provide a Grant amounting to **122, 573 United States Dollars**, or approximately **650 Thousand Zambian Kwacha Rebased** to the Organisation to facilitate the implementation of **The Project for Construction of a Youth Skills Training Centre in Lusaka City**. Under this project, various training programmes including tailoring, carpentry and IT will be implemented, and the fund will be used for construction of a 1 x 5 classroom block and an ablution block, and for the purchase of necessary equipment such as sewing machines and carpentry tools. The construction site is in Rotary Club's premises next to Dutch Reformed Church in Kabulonga.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Unemployment rate of the youth in Zambia is still serious, especially in urban areas. The purpose of the Project is to support income generation and to contribute to youth employment. It is my sincere hope that the construction of the new youth skills training center in Kablonga will be completed successfully and that the center will provide underprivileged youth around the areas with opportunities for quality skills training so that the standard of living will be improved for their families and the communities as a whole.

Finally, allow me to emphasise that the funds being provided today come from Japanese taxpayers and it is thus my sincere hope that the money will be properly utilised and that the project will be completed according to schedule. I would also like to request Rotary Club of Lusaka Central to liaise with the Embassy periodically so that we can keep the people of Japan informed of the benefits of our assistance.

After the successful completion of the project, I look forward to sharing the joy with Rotary Club of Lusaka Central.

In closing, I would like to pay tribute to the late Dev Babar, who had initiated the idea of the youth skills training center and who had been the driving force for its realization.

Thank you for your attention.

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