

**REMARKS BY H.E. MR. AKIO EGAWA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO
THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE
HANDOVER OF THE NEW COMMUNITY SCHOOL BUILDING TO
TWAVWANE HOME-BASED CARE AND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
INITIATIVE
TWAVWANE COMMUNITY SCHOOL, LUSAKA, 13TH MARCH 2012.**

Honourable Dorothy Kazunga, MP, Deputy Minister of Community Development,
Mother and Child Health,

Headman Chipwalo,

Mrs. Vera Chintu, Coordinator, Twavwane Home-Based Care Initiative,

Members of the Board and Staff at Twavwane,

Pupils at Twavwane Community School,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here today on behalf of the Government of Japan, to handover this **New Community School Building and furniture** to Twavwane Home-Based Care and Community School Initiative.

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

Twavwane Home-Based Care and Community School Initiative has been providing Home-Based Care support to people infected with HIV/AIDS. It has been contributing positively to the enhancement of the welfare of the orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) by providing them with nutritional support and education.

However, Twavwane's efforts to provide education to the children had been hampered by the poor condition of their classrooms. An ordinary house was being used as the school building. The pupils also lacked desks and chairs to write and sit on during classes.

The house that was being used as the school was not big enough for the many children who wanted to attend classes. This led to overcrowding in the classrooms.

It was also difficult for the different classes to concentrate on their lessons, because they were easily disturbed by the noise from other classes.

Despite all these challenges, Twavwane Home-Based Care and Community School Initiative continued making commendable efforts in ensuring that the OVCs have an opportunity to get quality education like other children.

It was in appreciation of the efforts being made by Twavwane Home-based Care and Community School Initiative that the Government of Japan had the pleasure to provide a Grant amounting to **96, 893 United States Dollars**, or approximately **460 Million Zambia Kwacha** to the organisation to facilitate the implementation of **The Project for Construction of a New Community School Building**. The funds were to be specifically used for the construction of a 1x 4 classroom block, an ablution block and for the purchase of 15 sets of desks and benches. I am glad to see that the project has been successfully completed.

It is my hope that this new school building and the related facilities being handed over today will give the children an opportunity for better education. It is also hoped that the facilities will help Twavwane not only in its Home-Based Care Programme but also in bringing members of the community together as they now have a more conducive place to meet and discuss issues affecting their community.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This month, Japan is commemorating the anniversary of the massive earthquake and tsunami that struck the eastern part of Japan in March last year. Japan is still faced with unprecedented challenges caused by the earthquake and tsunami. However, we are now on a steady path towards recovery and reconstruction. Despite the disaster, the Government of Japan remains committed to cooperation with Zambia for the economic and social development of the country.

Finally, allow me to emphasise that the funds that were used to undertake this Project came from Japanese taxpayers and it is thus my sincere hope that the facilities will be well utilized and maintained in order to have a positive long-lasting impact on people of Mandevu Constituency.

I also hope that this successful project will contribute to the further strengthening of the cordial relations that exist between the people of Japan and the people of Zambia.

I thank you.