

**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 CHIYANJANO COMMUNITY ORPHANAGE SCHOOL
EMBASSY OF JAPAN CHANCERY, LUSAKA, 22ND MARCH 2012.**

Mrs. Grace Tembo, Chairperson, Chiyanjano Women's Group,

Mrs. Beatrice Mbaso, Coordinator, Chiyanjano Community Orphanage School,

Members of Staff at Chiyanjano,

Distinguished Guests,

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 Chiyanjano Community Orphanage School. The purpose of the Grant is to enable the organization to implement **The Project for Construction of a New Community School Building** in Lusaka.

This Grant is being provided under 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. Over 150 projects have been funded and implemented around Zambia since its inception.

Chiyanjano Community Orphanage School was started by a group of 30 women who formed a club to provide Home-Based Care support to people infected with HIV/AIDS. They noticed that many of the children in the homes they were visiting were not going to school due to lack of funds. They decided to start conducting classes for the children at one of the members' home and engaged in various income generating activities, such as making of peanut butter, table cloths and doormats, to raise money for teachers' salaries and other requirements. However, the number of children seeking to join the community school has continued to rise, with the current number standing at 229 pupils.

I am told that the house being used as the school is not big enough for the many children who want to attend classes and this has led to overcrowding. It is also difficult for the different classes to concentrate on their lessons, because they are easily disturbed by the noise from other classes.

Despite all these challenges, Chiyanjano Community Orphanage School has been making commendable efforts in ensuring that the Orphans and Vulnerable Children have an opportunity to get quality education like other children.

It is in appreciation of the efforts being made by Chiyanjano Community Orphanage School that today, the Government of Japan is pleased to provide a Grant amounting to **112,336 United States Dollars**, or approximately **530 Million Zambian Kwacha** to the organisation to facilitate the implementation of **The Project for Construction of a New Community School Building**. The funds will specifically be used for the construction of a 1x 3 classroom block, an ablution block and a wall fence. The funds will also cover the drilling of a borehole and the purchase of desks and benches.

The construction of the school building and the provision of related facilities will hopefully give the children an opportunity for better education. It is also hoped that the facilities will help in bringing members of the community together as they will have a more conducive place to meet and discuss issues affecting their community.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last week, Japan commemorated 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 being provided today come from Japanese taxpayers and it is thus my sincere hope that the money will be properly utilized and that the Project will be completed on schedule. I would also like to request Chiyanjano to liaise with the Embassy periodically so that we can keep the people of Japan informed of the benefits of our assistance.

I look forward to sharing the joy of a successful completion of the Project with Chiyanjano.

I thank you.