

REMARKS BY MR. H.E. AKIO EGAWA  
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINAIRE AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF  
JAPAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE HANDOVER OF THE PROJECT FOR  
IMPROVEMENT OF NDOLA AND KITWE CITY ROADS  
9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012

Hon. Emerine Kabanshi, MP, Minister of Local Government and Housing,  
Mr. Stanford Musichili, Permanent Secretary of Copperbelt Province,  
His Worship Davis Chiwala, Mayor of Ndola City,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here today on behalf of the Government of Japan to hand over the successfully completed Project for the Improvement of Ndola and Kitwe City Roads.

The Government of Japan funded the project through the provision of grant aid of approximately 27 million United States Dollars, or 135 billion Zambian Kwacha. Started in August 2009, the project was completed in February this year, with the successful rehabilitation of 12.73km of city roads in Ndola and 11.63km in Kitwe. We are proud of the high-quality Japanese surfacing and paving technology utilized for the rehabilitation that guarantees high durability of the roads. The project also included creation of drainage alongside the road and development of pavements beside the road, both being important features for safety, durability, and user convenience.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japan believes that there can be no sustainable economic growth in the absence of reliable and adequate transport infrastructure in general and a widespread, accessible road network in particular, which would enable a city and indeed a country to function more effectively. In fact, improvement of basic economic infrastructure such as roads and energy is one of the three focus areas of Japan's development cooperation with Zambia, along with other two areas, namely, vitalization of productive sectors such as manufacture and agriculture and improvement of social infrastructure such as education and health.

It is my sincere hope that the improvement of the roads implemented under this project will ensure efficient and safe city transport and promote vibrant economic and social activities in and around the two cities. It delights me to know that since the completion of work earlier this year, the rehabilitated roads have already benefitted the residents from all walks of life---people on their way to work, children walking to school, those needing to go to hospital or the shops---in that they have made life safer and easier for them all, which in turn will enhance peoples' productivity in general. Furthermore, the roads will bring about more efficient transportation of mining and other products and goods in and around the heart of Copperbelt Province, thereby contributing to wealth and job creation in the region and the nation as a whole.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japan has its own challenges of rebuilding in the wake of the

unprecedented earthquake and tsunami that struck the country in March last year. However, the Government and people of Japan remain committed to acceleration of the economic and social development of the Republic of Zambia and Africa as a whole. The Japanese Government will host TICAD V in Yokohama, Japan in June next year with participation of Heads of State and Governments from African countries. TICAD stands for Tokyo International Conference on African Development. The first TICAD was held in 1993 and the summit conference has been held every five years since then. TICAD has been the pillar of Japan's cooperation with Africa. I am sure TICAD V, the fifth summit conference to be held in the milestone year of the twentieth anniversary of TICAD, will be yet another great step forward in Japan's mutually beneficial cooperation with Zambia and Africa.

A plaque commemorating the project for the improvement of Ndola and Kitwe city roads at the same time celebrates the friendship and cooperation that exists between Japan and the Republic of Zambia. It is my sincere hope that these facilities handed over today will be utilized and maintained well so that they will symbolize friendship and cooperation between Japan and Zambia for many years to come.

Thank you for your attention.

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