

**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 ST. ABANOUB CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL**  
**AT THE CHANCERY, EMBASSY OF JAPAN**  
**LUSAKA, 13 FEBRUARY 2013.**

Fr. Abraham Fam, Chief Executive Officer, St. Abanoub Christian Community School,

Members of the Board at St. Abanoub Christian Community School,

Members of Staff at St. Abanoub Christian Community School

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 St. Abanoub Christian Community School. The purpose of the Grant is to enable the organization to implement **The Project for Construction of New Community School Buildings at St. Abanoub Christian Community School in Kanyama Area, 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 projects with an emphasis on ensuring human security at the

grassroots level. More than 150 projects have been funded and implemented around Zambia since its inception.

St. Abanoub Christian Community School has been empowering orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) through quality education at three schools in Lusaka City and contributing positively to the enhancement of the welfare of OVCs.

However, at the school in Kanyama, the efforts to provide quality education to the OVCs have been regrettably hampered by inadequate learning space and the poor condition of classrooms. Currently, an ordinary two-bedroom house is used as the school building and overcrowding in poorly ventilated classrooms has become a serious problem. Despite the challenges, St. Abanoub Christian Community School has been making commendable efforts to ensure that the OVCs have an opportunity to get the same quality education as other children.

It is in appreciation of the efforts being made by St. Abanoub Christian Community School that today, the Government of Japan is pleased to provide a Grant amounting to **123,367 United States Dollars**, or approximately **600,000 Zambian Kwacha Rebased** to the Organization to facilitate the implementation of **The Project for Construction of New Community School Buildings at St. Abanoub Christian Community School in Kanyama, Lusaka City**. The funds are to be specifically used for the construction of a classroom block, an ablution block, and for the purchase of 16 sets of cabinets.

The construction of the new school building and the provision of related facilities will hopefully give the children better education. It is also hoped that the facilities will help St. Abanoub Christian Community School not only in its primary education programme but also 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,

As was shown during the successful working visit of H.E. President Michael Sata to Japan last year, Japan remains committed to the economic and social development of Zambia and to Africa. The Japanese Government will host the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in June this year with participation of heads of state and government from African countries, as well as senior representatives from the international donor community.

Finally, allow me to emphasize that the funds being provided today come from Japanese taxpayers. It is thus my sincere hope that the money will be properly utilized and that the project will be completed according to schedule. I would also like to request St. Abanoub Christian Community School 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 St. Abanoub Christian Community School and the Kanyama community as a whole.

Thank you for your attention.

End