

**REMARKS BY MR. AKIO EGAWA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN
ON THE OCCASION OF THE EXCHANGE MEETING BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA AND
JAPANESE COMPANIES OPERATING IN ZAMBIA
LUSAKA, 14th AUGUST, 2013**

Mr. Stephen Mwansa, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening and welcome everyone. I wish to express my appreciation to all the participants present at today's exchange meeting: officials from various Ministries and agencies of the Government of Republic of Zambia and representatives from Japanese companies operating in Zambia. I would like to thank the ZDA for its cooperation and coordinating role in realizing this event. I look forward to the valued input of participants during this meeting.

The relentless efforts made by the Government of the Republic of Zambia to improve the investment climate the country are indeed commendable. These efforts have played a significant part in promoting Foreign Direct Investment in Zambia, including that from Japan. The investment promotion events in Japan and in Johannesburg organized by ZDA in recent years also turned out to be quite successful.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am glad to report to you that the number of Japanese companies actively operating in Zambia now stands at sixteen (16). The most recent establishment is Toyota Tsusho Zambia, a subsidiary of Toyota Tsusho Africa, whose headquarters is in Johannesburg. It is my sincere hope that all the companies will continue to expand their businesses in Zambia, and achieve success and prosperity in their various endeavours.

You may recall, Ladies and Gentlemen, that in June this year, Japan hosted the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICADV) in Yokohama. More than 50 African countries were represented at this event, with many of them being at Head of State level. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my profound appreciation to His Excellency President Sata for his attendance as well as his valued contribution at the TICAD Meeting.

The thrust of discussions at the TICAD V was on the key role of the private sector in African development through investment and trade and the importance

of public-private partnership in accelerating investment and trade. The Government of Japan, under the leadership of Prime Minister Abe, attaches particular importance to assisting and partnering with Japanese businesses in expanding investment and business activities in Africa, utilizing various government tools and resources, including ODA.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's exchange meeting aims to assist in enhancing the activities of Japanese companies in Zambia by sharing information, ideas, and concerns with the Zambian officials, which would be beneficial to both parties and ultimately to both countries.

We have this evening representatives from Ministries and government agencies that are of vital, direct relevance to business operations of Japanese companies in Zambia, including customs, tax and immigration authorities. It is imperative that Japanese companies operating in Zambia are equipped with adequate knowledge and information as they conduct their business activities. I hope this gathering will provide a good opportunity for all of you to get to know each other better and have meaningful interactions.

In closing, Ladies and Gentlemen, I trust that you will have fruitful deliberations during this exchange meeting, and that all the participants will derive gainful insights into the various issues that will be discussed.

It is my hope that this meeting will become a catalyst to enable Japanese companies to do business more smoothly and efficiently in Zambia and to further improve the investment climate of Zambia so that Zambia will attract more Japanese private sector investment. It is my dream to see a Japanese chamber of commerce in Zambia.

Thank you for your attention.