

REMARKS BY H.E. MR. AKIO EGAWA
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE HANDOVER CEREMONY FOR
THE PROJECT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF
WATER SUPPLY CONDITION IN NDOLA CITY
17TH SEPTEMBER, 2013

Hon. Mwenya Musenge, M.P., Minister of Copperbelt Province,
His Worship Davies Chiwala, Mayor of Ndola City,
Dr. Chileshe Mulenga, PS, Ministry of Local Government and
Housing,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to represent the Government of Japan at this momentous handover ceremony for the Project for the Improvement of Water Supply Condition in Ndola City.

Upon conclusion of the official agreement on the project between the two Governments on 29 June, 2011, the Government of Japan extended to the Government of the Republic of Zambia grant aid of 2 billion and 116 million Yen, approximately 115 million Zambian Kwacha Rebased or 21.2 million US dollars. The project involves the rehabilitation of Kafubu Water treatment plant and approximately 12.9 kilometres of water pipeline network. The construction of 6 public water kiosks is also included in the project.

Konoike Construction Co. Ltd., a leading construction companies in Japan, which was founded in 1918, has been contracted to carry out the rehabilitation of the water supply system. Konoike has a sound track record of supporting economic activities in Zambia for many years. For instance, Konoike's high standard of technology and reliability was proven in another Japanese grant aid project, the Project for Improvement of Ndola and Kitwe City Roads, which was completed last year. Meanwhile, consultancy services for this project have been provided by

Sanyu Consultants Inc., a renowned Japanese civil engineering consulting firm. Sanyu Consultants also has a reputable record in Zambia, involved in Japanese Government's grand aid projects such as the Ground Water Development Project in Northern Province in 2004 and 2005 and more recently Small Scale Irrigation Project in Luapula and Northern Provinces.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ndola City is one of the most thriving cities in the Republic of Zambia as a centre for economic growth. However, maintaining a good water supply system has been a challenge for the city to sustain the growing population, especially in the southern part of the city. I am told, for instance, the residents in many areas have been inconvenienced by water supply of less than 12 hours a day. It was against such background that the Government of Japan agreed to the request on the project from the Government of the Republic Zambia.

The construction work for the project was started in March last year and completed recently. With a focus on the southern region of the city, the project will benefit about 320 thousand people, accounting for more than half of Ndola's entire population. The project created jobs for about 250 people per day, totaling to about 100 thousand people during the construction period of 1 and a half years.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Water infrastructure is very important for any economy to grow. Since as far back as 1985, Japan has consistently extended its development assistance to Zambia's water sector through grant projects and technical cooperation. For instance, Japan assisted in the rehabilitation of Kafue water treatment facilities in Lusaka in 1986 as well as extensive construction of boreholes in some compounds in peri-urban areas of Lusaka. We also helped the construction of approximately 2,000 boreholes in rural areas of Luapula and Southern provinces. To date, Japan's

assistance in Zambia's water sector amounts to 135 million US dollars. The Government of Japan attaches high priority to the water sector in its country assistance policy for the Republic of Zambia and pledges its continued cooperation in the sector.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

You may recall that the Japanese Government hosted the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICADV) in Yokohama, Japan on 1 to 3 June this year with the participation of Heads of State and Government from African countries. I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound appreciation to His Excellency President Michael Chilufya Sata for his participation in the conference.

One of the themes of discussion at the conference was 'Creating an Inclusive Society for Growth' and Japan announced its intention to realize improved access to safe water and sanitation for 10 million people in Africa, including Zambia, over the next five years.

Finally, I have no doubt that the just-completed high quality water supply system will bolster the industrial activity and improve the livelihood in Ndola City and ultimately contribute to the economic development and growth of Zambia. It is my earnest hope that through this project, the friendship between our two countries will further be strengthened.

Thank you for your attention.

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