

**Remarks by Mr. Hideki Yamaji, DCM, Embassy of Japan
On the occasion of the reception
to celebrate the birthday of H.M. the Emperor of Japan**

Guest of Honor, Hon. Greyford Monde, MP, Deputy Minister of
Agriculture and Livestock,
Honorable Ministers present,
Honorable Deputy Ministers present,
Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening. Muli Bwanji Bonse!

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the reception to
celebrate the 80th birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

First and foremost, I would like to introduce and welcome
Ambassador – designate of Japan, H.E. Mr. Kiyoshi Koinuma. He
arrived in Lusaka on 18th November.

(Short remarks by Ambassador Koinuma)

Thank you, Ambassador Koinuma. Under his leadership we
pledge to do our best to strengthen the bilateral relations between
Japan and the Republic of Zambia. It is our sincere hope that the
people of Zambia will continue to extend their goodwill and
support to us, as has been the case over the years.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to note that, in the past year or so, relations between
Japan and Zambia have been strengthened even further. His
Excellency, Mr. Michael C. Sata, President of the Republic of
Zambia visited Japan twice in the last fourteen months. During
the visit last October, the President had an audience with H.M.

the Emperor and met with the then Prime Minister, Mr. Noda. The President visited Japan this June again and had talks with Prime Minister Abe. Furthermore, the Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Japan four times since last October. Most recently, Honorable Wylber Simuusa participated in the Conference, held in Kumamoto Prefecture, Southern Japan, in October, on the Minamata Convention for regulating the use of mercury, and signed the Convention. The Minister also had talks with Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr. Fumio Kishida.

It is encouraging, Ladies and Gentlemen, to note that the total value of trade between the two countries has tripled in the last three years, reaching at approximately 16 billion yen in 2012. Investment in Zambia is also on the rise. In July this year, we witnessed the opening of Toyota Tsusho Zambia Office here in Lusaka. As a multi-business enterprise, Toyota Tsusho is exploring business opportunities in such areas as agriculture, infrastructure development, mining and manufacturing. Prior to this, Hitachi Construction Machinery started operating a remanufactured parts plant near the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, the first-ever investment in the Zambian manufacturing sector by a Japanese company. Japan Tobacco International also opened its office in Zambia. It has about 8,000 contracted Zambian tobacco farmers. Incidentally, today, we have exhibits at the end of this hall from 9 Japanese companies and JICA. We also have on display brand-new Japanese cars outside of the hall, from TOYOTA, NISSAN, HONDA, MAZDA and MITSUBISHI.

In the area of economic aid, the Japanese Government has provided 213.9 billion yen (11.6 billion ZMW) to Zambia up until the end of March 2012 in the form of grants, loans and technical assistance. This year, we have continued to actively extend our assistance to Zambia, including grant aid projects for constructing the Inner Ring Road (150 million ZMW), and upgrading Lusaka Health Centers to District Hospitals (100 million ZMW). Up until

August this year, a total of 1,348 JICA volunteers have assisted Zambia's development in the field of private sector development, agriculture, electricity, education, health, water and sanitation.

The fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) was held in Yokohama, Japan, in June. Heads of states and delegations from 51 African countries, including H.E. Michael C. Sata, attended the conference. TICAD was launched in 1993 to promote high-level policy dialogue between African leaders and development partners every 5 years, and has been providing fundamental and comprehensive policy and guideline on African development since then. At TICAD V, the Japanese Government announced its intention to boost the growth of Africa through trade and investment of private sector, and to promote 'Human Security' through Japan's assistance. For this purpose, Japan will utilize private and public means of up to approx. 3.2 trillion yen (1.72 trillion ZMW), including ODA of 1.4 trillion yen (756 billion ZMW) in the next 5 years. These initiatives cover various fields, including infrastructure, agriculture, education and health. Within the framework of TICAD, Japan will proactively continue to assist Zambia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Next year, 2014, marks the 50th anniversary of Japan-Zambia diplomatic relations as well as the golden jubilee of Zambia's independence. To commemorate this watershed year, the Embassy of Japan, together with the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), will co-host a Trade and Investment Promotion Forum in Lusaka in late January next year. I hope that this forum will encourage the Japanese business community to invest more in Zambia. We are also planning various large-scale cultural events such as a Japanese drum performance show and Japanese film festival.

In closing, I would like to point out that the independence of

Zambia is closely connected to the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games. It was the final day of the Olympic Games that Zambia declared independence and the national flag of Zambia was paraded for the first time outside the country at the closing ceremony. Since then, Zambia has developed and has largely contributed to the peace and stability of the region. Japan and Zambia have broadened and strengthened relationship, not only in the economic field, but also in the academic, cultural and sports field. The 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympics must provide another impetus for further development of Zambia and strengthening relations between the two countries.

Thank you. Zikomo.

(A glass is poured with Sake)

Now, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please join me in a toast to the health and prosperity of H.E. Mr. Michael C. Sata, President of the Republic of Zambia, Guest of Honor, Hon. Greyford Monde, MP, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Honorable Ministers present, all of you gathered here, and indeed all the Zambian people.

Cheers!

(end)