

**REMARKS BY H.E. MR. KIYOSHI KOINUMA
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE GRANT CONTRACT
WITH THE ASSOCIATION FOR AID AND RELIEF, JAPAN
(AAR JAPAN)
EMBASSY OF JAPAN, FRIDAY, 10TH JANUARY 2014**

Ms. Hiromi Kawano, Country Director, Association for Aid and Relief, Japan
(AAR Japan),

Staff Members of AAR Japan,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here today, representing the Government of Japan at this signing ceremony for Grant Assistance to AAR Japan.

Today, the Government of Japan will provide a grant amounting to 761,979 United States dollars, or approximately 4.2 million Zambian Kwacha, to AAR Japan. The purpose of the grant is to enable AAR Japan to continue implementing the **HIV/AIDS Project in Kafue District**, as it enters Phase Two. The community-centred, comprehensive project aims to tackle HIV/AIDS within three specified areas, that is, Kafue Town, Chilanga area and Muwenbezi area.

This year, the grant will be used to improve the medical care system at Muwenbezi Health Centre in addition to Mount Makulu and Nangongwe Health Centres, where Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Centres were constructed in Phase One. Phase Two of the **HIV/AIDS Project in Kafue District** will continue aiming at providing support for people who live with HIV/AIDS, as well as

those who are at risk of HIV/AIDS infection. The project activities include the construction of an ART Centre at Muwenbezi Health Centre; provision of equipments for the enhancement of clinical examinations and improved data management; the training of health volunteers; and awareness-raising related to HIV/AIDS and ART. The planned activities of this project are aligned with Japan's Country Assistance Policy to Zambia, as well as with the priorities of the Government of Zambia in the Health Sector Development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japan has been making a substantial contribution to the improvement of health of people around the world. In the area of support for medical service provision, the Government of Japan has been providing financial assistance, which includes financial contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Moreover, "Japan's Strategy on Global Health Diplomacy," which was published in June last year, emphasizes that the Government of Japan will continue to aim at strengthening health systems in order to connect communities to facilities in Africa. In Japan's Country Assistance Policy to Zambia, focus is on the improvement of social infrastructure for sustainable economic growth.

In this light, the Embassy of Japan appreciates the commendable role being played by AAR Japan in addressing HIV/AIDS at the community level in collaboration with equally dedicated Zambian practitioners. Furthermore, the Government of Japan is acutely aware of the critical role the **HIV/AIDS Project in Kafue District** is expected to play in improving the welfare and productivity of people affected by HIV/AIDS in the project areas. We have rendered support to past projects of AAR Japan, by providing grant assistance

to the **Chilanga HIV/AIDS Project from 2005 to 2008** and the **Chipapa HIV/AIDS Project from 2009 to 2011**.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere hope that AAR Japan's activities will continue to enhance the well-being of vulnerable people in the Republic of Zambia, and further contribute to strengthening the cordial relations that exist between the people of Japan and the people of Zambia.

Thank you.