

I.E. MR. KIYOSHI KOINUMA,

AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE GRANT CONTRACT
WITH CIVIC FORUM ON HOUSING AND HABITAT, AMBASSADOR'S
RESIDENCE, LUSAKA, 16 OCTOBER, 2014.**

Hon. Given Lubinda, Member of Parliament for Kabwata Constituency

Mr. Joseph Musanje, Chairperson, Civic Forum on Housing and Habitat

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 Civic Forum on Housing and Habitat. The purpose of the Grant is to enable the Organization to implement **The Project for Construction of New Community School Buildings in Mahopo Community, Lusaka City.**

This Grant has been provided under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects Programme of the Government of Japan. The programme was introduced in Zambia in 1990 and its primary objective is to support various development and human security projects at the grassroots level. More than 150 projects have been funded and implemented around Zambia since its inception.

Civic Forum on Housing and Habitat has been dealing with various housing issues in Zambia together with the member NGOs. Their main objective is to provide



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1 for adequate housing for unprivileged people in

Mahopo Community, in Lusaka City, which has about 5,200 residents, has been existent for more than fifty years, but it was only in 2013 that it was regularized as a legal residential area. This therefore means that basic facilities and systems such as health, education, sanitation, among others, as well as adequate housing, have not yet been met in this community.

Among the residents in this community, there are about 450 children who are of school going age; however, there is only one community school in the area, and it uses a church building as classrooms. Some children have to commute to the nearest government school which is 14 km away from the community.

Civic Forum on Housing and Habitat, together with its member NGO, Mahopo Community Development Society, lobbied the authorities to obtain legal residential right for Mahopo Community, and planned a project for a better living environment for the people in this area, which includes construction of adequate housing, a police post, a health center, and a school.

It is in recognition of the educational challenges which Mahopo Community is facing and the efforts that have been made by Civic Forum on Housing and Habitat and the community, that today, the Government of Japan is pleased to provide a Grant amounting to 84,200 United States Dollars, or approximately 522 Thousand Zambian Kwacha to the organization, to facilitate the implementation of **The Project for Construction of New Community School Buildings in Mahopo Community, Lusaka City**. The funds will be used specifically for the construction of a classroom block, an ablution block, and for the purchase of furniture.



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ion of the new school buildings and the provision of related facilities will help to provide a conducive learning environment and ultimately a better education for the children. It is also hoped that the completion of the school facilities will boost people's morale for further development of the community.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japanese people have been supporting the economic and social development of Zambia since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1964. In recent years, the Government of Japan announced the expansion of its aid and investment for Africa's growth and development at the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in June 2013. Furthermore, Japanese Imperial Highnesses, Prince and Princess Akishino visited Zambia in June this year, to commemorate Zambia's Golden Jubilee of Independence and also the 50th anniversary of Zambia-Japan diplomatic relations. I am optimistic that the manifestation by the Government of Japan at TICAD V and this historical visit by the Imperial family will even further deepen and broaden the cordial relations between our two countries.

Finally, allow me to emphasise that the funds that were used for this Project came from Japanese taxpayers.

It is thus my sincere hope that these school buildings will be well utilised and maintained, so that they will have a positive enduring impact on people in the



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ng-lasting friendship between the people of Japan

Thank you for your attention.

(END)