

**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 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2015**

Mr. Ryota Hirama, Acting Country Representative, Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan),  
Staff Members of AAR Japan,  
Members of the Press,  
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 602,517 United States dollars, or approximately 3.8 million Zambian Kwacha, to AAR Japan. The purpose of the grant is to enable the continued progress of the implementation of the **HIV/AIDS Project in Kafue District**, as it commences its third and final Phase. The community-centred comprehensive project aims to tackle HIV/AIDS issues within three specified areas, namely, Kafue Town, Chilanga area and Mwembeshi area.

As I mentioned, this year is the final year for the implementation of this project. AAR Japan will thereafter focus on the establishment of a sustainable framework for providing Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) and other forms of support towards people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as those who are at risk

of HIV/AIDS infection. The project activities include the upgrade of ART Centres within Mount Makulu, Nangongwe and Mwembeshi Health Centres; improvement of data management for HIV/AIDS patients; training of health volunteers; and raising awareness of the people in these communities concerning issues related to HIV/AIDS and ART. It is also commendable that AAR Japan provides CD4 counters to Mount Makulu Health Centres and Nangongwe Health Centres. Through this provision, it is expected that both Health Centres will be better able to prescribe antiretroviral (ARV) drugs accurately and timely.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made an address at the sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2013, he announced that the Government of Japan will promote Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which ensures that all people can obtain the health services they need without suffering financial hardship.

In the same vein, Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Fumio Kishida pointed out that the UHC-oriented approach is highly effective for achieving health-related goals in the Post-2015 Development Agenda when he made his remarks at the side event of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations held in September, 2014.

The year 2015 is the target year for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the international community continues to work relentlessly in order to achieve the outstanding issues which are yet to be realized.

Arising from this, the establishment of a sustainable framework for the provision of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) and other forms of support towards people living with HIV/AIDS is the focal point on which the UHC approach places a special emphasis. It therefore goes without saying that the project by AAR Japan is of a perspective that is in alignment with policy goals in the health sector set by the Government of Japan.

In closing, please allow me to emphasise that the funds that were used to undertake this Project came from Japanese taxpayers. It is therefore my sincere hope that the **HIV/AIDS Project in Kafue District** will serve as a beacon for bringing hope amongst the people in the region, as we strive together towards our mutual goal and accentuate the cordial relationship which exists between the people of Japan and Zambia.

Thank you.