

**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 ZAMBIA TUBERCULOSIS AND LEPROSY TRUST, EMBASSY OF
JAPAN, LUSAKA, 26 FEBRUARY, 2015.**

Mrs. Charity Habeenzu, CEO Zambia Tuberculosis and Leprosy Trust,

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 Zambia Tuberculosis and Leprosy Trust (ZATULET). Today, the Government of Japan is pleased to provide a Grant amounting to 103,008 United States Dollars, or approximately 650 Thousand Zambian Kwacha to the organization, to facilitate the implementation of **The Project for Construction of New Community Clinic in 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.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

ZATULET has been working in 12 project sites in 5 provinces for case-finding, diagnosis, treatment, prevention of TB and HIV/AIDS since 1998. And in 2005, it opened a clinic in Massmedia, Lusaka city. This clinic has TB related special knowledge and accommodates the patients who are sent from a government hospital near by, thus contributing mainly for the medical service for the residence of Kalingalinga district. However, still high HIV/AIDS infection rate in urban area and co-infection rate of TB and HIV/AIDS cause the increase on the patients to this clinic, and it gets hard to treat everybody with a current small facility.

It is in recognition of the challenges which ZATULET is facing, that the Government of Japan has decided to fund the Project for the Construction of New Community Clinic in Lusaka city. This fund will be used specifically for the construction of a new clinic building and the procurement of medical equipment. By this project, the capacity of the clinic will be doubled and a newly established laboratory and lab equipments will enable the early detection of diseases. It is optimistic that the medical service at this clinic together with the steady community works in different project sites by ZATULET will contribute to reduce the number of TB and HIV/AIDS patients.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 2015 is the target year for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and the Government of Zambia continues to work in order to achieve the outstanding issues in cooperation with the international organizations. At TICAD V in June 2013, the Government of Japan announced its strategy to promote

Universal Health Coverage (UHC), under which every person can receive basic health services without suffering financial hardship. I hope the Project by ZATULET for TB and HIV/AIDS patients will play a big part in realization of UHC, a big aim of international society including Japan.

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 this aid will make a step toward Zambia and Japan's mutual goal and accentuate the long-lasting friendship between the people of Japan and Zambia.

Thank you for your attention.

(END)