

**REMARKS BY H. E. MR. KIYOSHI KOINUMA,  
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZAMBIA,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE HANDOVER CEREMONY OF  
THE CD4 COUNT MACHINE AT NANGONGWE HEALTH CENTRE  
ON WEDNESDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER, 2015**

Mr. Gibson Sinkala, Council Chairperson/ Mayor, Kafue District Council,

Dr. Kennedy Malama, Provincial Medical Officer, Lusaka Provincial Health Office,

Ms. Catherine Chapeshameno, Area Counsellor, Kafue District Council,

Mr. Aaron Kamalondo, Council Secretary, Kafue District Council,

Dr. Dorothy Marumahoko, District Medical Officer, Kafue District Health Office,

Distinguished Guests,

Mr. Ryota Hirama, Country Representative, Association for Aid and Relief, Japan  
(AAR Japan),

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Muli Bwanji,

It is my great pleasure to be here today on behalf of the Government of Japan to witness the official handover of the CD4 cell counting machines to the Kafue and Chilanga District Community Medical Offices.

Since 2002, the Government of Japan has implemented 21 projects totaling about 6.7 million US Dollars (or 668 million JPY) under **the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects** scheme in Zambia, with the primary objective of supporting projects implemented by Japanese NGOs, which would enhance economic and social development in the community.

**This HIV/AIDS Project** has been funded under Japan's Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects, with the total assistance provided amounting to **602,517 United States Dollars**. Utilizing part of the funding, AAR Japan provided a CD4 cell counting machine for each of the two ART (Antiretroviral Therapy) Centres within the Nangongwe Clinic and Mount Makulu Clinic.

**CD4 cell counting machines** are important equipment that measures the CD4 cell concentration in blood which is an important indicator of immune competence of the patient. Monitoring CD4 count of the patient also helps practitioners understand the effectiveness of the on-going ARV (antiretroviral) treatment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The **HIV/AIDS Project** was implemented by AAR Japan since 2013 in collaboration with the Kafue and Chilanga District Commissioners, Medical Officers, and the local community. You may recall that, apart from the hand-over of the CD4 machines, AAR Japan has constructed the ART facilities and provided equipment for the Nangongwe Clinic, the Mount Makulu Clinic and the Mwembeshi Health Centre; supported the improvement of data management for HIV/AIDS patients; trained health volunteers; and helped raise awareness of the people in your communities and schools, concerning ART and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Today, it is gratifying to witness some of the significant groundwork that **AAR Japan** has done. Through these interventions, it is my hope, that the fully equipped clinics with improved data management will provide more effective care towards those living with HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, through the training and sensitization activities, it is my sincere hope that the threat of AIDS will be reduced in the communities around.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to point out that the project by AAR Japan is also in alignment with policy goals in the health sector set by both the Government of the Republic of

Zambia and the Government of Japan with the aim to improve the health status of the people in Zambia including those living with HIV/AIDS. You may recall that Hon. Chikwanda, Minister of Finance, in his presentation of the 2016 National Budget, said it is important to achieve Universal Health Coverage, to achieve equitable access to quality health services for the people. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe also made an address at a side event of the United Nations General Assembly in September, 2015, announcing that the Government of Japan will continue to promote Universal Health Coverage, which ensures that all people can obtain the health services they need without suffering financial hardship.

Here in Zambia, Japan this month started the implementation of the “Project for strengthening the basic health service management for the Universal Health Coverage,” which supports the capacity building of the health management staff at the Ministry of Health and district medical offices for better health service delivery for all.

The Global Fund, which is known worldwide for its extensive contribution in treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, also traces its roots to Japan, where a summit of G8 nations meeting in Okinawa, Japan, in 2000 called for its creation. Moving forward, next year, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), will be held here in Africa for the first time. And the health sector is expected to be upheld as one of the pillars of Japanese development cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In closing, I would like to commend AAR Japan, the Kafue and Chilanga District Commissioners, Medical Officers, volunteers and the local community for the successful implementation of the project. It is my sincere hope that the provision of the CD4 machines and other initiatives at the three health facilities and around will have a positive long-lasting impact on the welfare of the people in the region, and will symbolize the cordial relationship between the people of Japan and Zambia.

I thank you.

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