

**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 KALINGALINGA CENTER FOR THE CARE OF ORPHANS,  
LUSAKA, 30 October, 2015**

Mama Chibesa Kankasa, Managing Director, Kalingalinga Center for the Care of Orphans,

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 Kalingalinga Center for the Care of Orphans. Today, the Government of Japan is pleased to provide a Grant amounting to 86,696 United States Dollars, or approximately one million Zambian Kwacha to facilitate the implementation of The Project for Construction of New Community School Building at Kalingalinga Center in Lusaka.

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 160 projects have been funded and implemented around Zambia since its inception.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The recipient organization runs a care centre for orphans and vulnerable children living in Kalingalinga compound, and provides education at a community school as well as material supports. Mama Chibesa Kankasa, a founder of this organization, started this community school in 1994 by opening up the rooms of her own residence, and expanded the scale of the school by constructing other classroom blocks. Through these efforts, underprivileged children in the area are now able to access quality education. However, the poverty situation around the compound remains daunting, and the demand for free quality education is high. Now the centre has many names on a waiting list.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With the hope to provide more unprivileged children with adequate education, by making use of the recipient's experience on school management and OVC support, the Government of Japan is pleased to support the implementation of The Project for Construction of New Community School Building at Kalingalinga Center in Lusaka. The fund will be used specifically for the construction of a classroom block and the procurement of furniture.

Mama Chibesa Kankasa is one of the freedom fighters who took a prominent role for the independence of Zambia. After the independence, she served in a number of important government roles, including as Minister for Women Affairs and contributed to the liberation of women and children. As President Lungu has stressed the importance of women empowerment and expressed his determination

to eliminate gender disparity at the General debate of the United Nations General Assembly in September this year, the Government of Zambia is implementing various policies regarding gender, such as a promotion for an educational foundation for girls and a campaign against gender based violence. In line with this, the Government of Japan has declared at TICAD V its focus on women empowerment and gender equality on various fields of aid in Africa, including equal opportunity in education. It is expected that the new school facility would provide equal education to more children and that girls in particular would accomplish their education under the great female leader.

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 the funds will be well utilised and the project will be completed as planned.

Thank you for your attention.

(END)