

**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 ST. PAUL'S MULUNGUSHI COMMUNITY RURAL HEALTH  
CENTRE, LUSAKA, 6 NOVEMBER, 2015.**

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 St. Paul's Mulungushi Community Rural Health Centre. Today, the Government of Japan is pleased to provide a Grant amounting to 89,298 United States Dollars, or approximately one million Zambian Kwacha to the organization, to facilitate the implementation of **The Project for the Construction of a Modern Maternity Annex at St. Paul's Rural Health Centre in Kapiri Mposhi District.**

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, St. Paul's Mulungushi Community Rural Health Centre has been providing basic medical services to about 8,000 people in 20 villages of Kapiri Mposhi District, Central Province since its establishment in 1986. Its maternity ward currently supports about 30 deliveries per month. However, it has limited delivery bed-space, failing to meet the demands of the local residents. As a result, adequate service cannot be provided when more than two deliveries coincide, and consequently, both expectant mothers and newborn babies are put in the same room. Thus, the condition is not conducive for proper delivery at this centre. Moreover, the ward doesn't have a waiting room for expectant mothers, which makes some of them to opt for home delivery due to the distance from their homes to the centre. This has led to more than 20 home deliveries per month, taking place in the catchment area.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With the hope to provide safer delivery environment for more expectant mothers, the Government of Japan is pleased to support the implementation of The Project for the Construction of a Modern Maternity Annex at the Rural Health Centre in Kapiri Mposhi District. The fund will be used specifically for the expansion of the maternity ward with a delivery room, a waiting room and a postnatal room and in addition, the procurement of medical equipment.

It is hoped that this facility will provide safer delivery, antenatal and postnatal services in a better environment. Also, the newly-constructed waiting room enables the expectant mothers living far from the centre to have safe delivery at the

centre, which would lead to a reduction in the mortality and morbidity rates of mothers and newborn babies in the area.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Zambia, improvement of mother and child healthcare is a challenge. This year is the target year for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and also the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), one of which is empowerment of women, have been adopted for the next 15 years by the United Nations. The Government of Zambia has been diligently addressing the issues in cooperation with the international society in order to achieve these goals. The Government of Japan also put its focus on women, as expressed at TICADV in 2013, that it would vigorously implement gender equality and empowerment of women in various sectors across the African continent, including health and education.

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 contribute to the creation of a society where more Zambian women receive modern healthcare and accentuate the long-lasting friendship between the people of Japan and Zambia.

Thank you for your attention.

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