

**REMARKS BY H.E. MR. KIYOSHI KOINUMA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE  
REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE HANDOVER OF THE  
PROJECT FOR IMPROVEMENT OF SPORTS FACILITIES OF THE NATIONAL  
OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OF ZAMBIA, 10th MARCH, 2015**

Honourable Vincent Mwale, Minister of Youth and Sport,  
Mrs. Miriam Moyo, President, National Olympic Committee of Zambia,  
Members of the Press,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be here today, representing the Government of Japan at this handover ceremony for Grass Roots Cultural Grant Aid. I would like to express my sincere admiration and respect for the National Olympic Committee's continued contribution to the promotion and development of sport in Zambia.

This Project of Yamato Field started in 2012, to identify sporting talent among the youth and to foster international sport leaders, as well as to ensure sound upbringing of children by providing ordinary citizens, especially underprivileged youths with a safe sport facility. To that end, the Embassy of Japan granted about One Hundred Thousand Dollars in response to the National Olympic Committee's request to construct an athletic field, a soccer court, a tennis court and a netball court.

Last year, as Phase 2 of the project, the Government of Japan agreed to provide Cultural Grant Aid amounting to One Hundred Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty nine United States Dollars (USD100,829) which is approximately equivalent to about Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand Kwacha, to the National Olympic Committee of Zambia to improve the sports facilities in Lusaka, specifically for the construction of a hockey court, a basketball court and a volleyball court so that it expands the range of sports activities in Zambia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When Tokyo was selected to host the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Japan launched a new initiative "Sport for Tomorrow" and committed to providing prioritized assistance to further contribute to the promotion of world peace and international understanding through sport, from now and over the seven-year period until 2020. Under the initiative of "Sport for Tomorrow", I would like to continue to

expand our assistance for spreading and promoting the Olympic movement among people of all generations including the youth who represent the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I firmly believe that sports have the power to create new dreams and smiles, the power to give hope, and the power to bring people together. It is my sincere wish that in 2020, many athletes can represent Zambia at the Tokyo Olympic Games, and their performance will make great impact to people throughout the world over by showing the inherent power of sport to realize desire, hope and aspirations. It is also my hope that the provision of access to sporting activities for the vulnerable underprivileged youth will keep them mentally healthy and help to grow up into good citizens capable of contributing to the social and economic development of Zambia.

Thank you.

(END)