

REMARKS BY H.E. MR. KIYOSHI KOINUMA, AMBASSADOR OF  
JAPAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE HANDOVER OF THE SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE TO  
ROTARY CLUB LUSAKA CENTRAL, LUSAKA, ON 5<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY  
2016

Hon. Emmerine Kabanshi, Minister of Community Development,

Dr. Mwelwa, Vice Chancellor, Cresco Ministries,

Ms. Eunike Phiri, President, Rotary Club Lusaka Central,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to be here today on behalf of the Government of Japan to hand over the new youth skills training centre to Rotary Club Lusaka Central. This Project was funded by the Government of Japan under its “Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects” and the Grant Contract amounting to 122,573 United States Dollars was signed on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2013.

First introduced in Zambia in 1990, this programme aims to support various development projects which would enhance what we call human security at the grassroots level. Over 160 projects have been funded and implemented in Zambia since its inception.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Rotary Club Lusaka Central has been making commendable efforts in improving the life levels of unprivileged people and communities by implementing various projects in Zambia, among which are the support for orphanages, community schools and sanitation facilities. In this project, a new skill training centre for under-privileged youth living in the compounds of Lusaka City was constructed, and it will provide them with quality skills training. It is expected that this project will contribute to increase job opportunities and raise the income level of the youths.

Unemployment rate of the youth in Zambia is still high, and especially for the youths living in the compounds in urban areas, employment opportunities are limited. The Government of Zambia launched the National Youth Policy in 2015 with the aim of youth empowerment and employment to create a productive generation and address the issues affecting the youth in Zambia. As well as job creation, provision of skills training plays an important role. In line with this, the Government of Japan will make continued efforts towards the support of vocational schools and contribute to youth empowerment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the Grant Contract was signed in 2013, Rotary Club Lusaka Central had been facing many challenges to complete this project. This project could not have been completed without donations from the devoted members of the Rotary club. I thank all the people who contributed to the success of the project. From now, I sincerely request Rotary Club, Creso Ministry, and relevant ministries to

continuously work together to maintain the provision of quality training at this centre. I hope that this newly constructed skills training centre will contribute to uplift the living standards of youths and nurture the human resource which will forge the future of Zambian economy.

Japanese people have been supporting the economic and social development of Zambia since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1964. The funds that were used for this Project also came from Japanese taxpayers. It is thus my sincere hope that this centre will be well utilised and support the development of the community.

Thank you for your attention.

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