



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

SPEECH BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

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**ON THE OCCASION OF CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY
GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR GRASSROOTS HUMAN SECURITY
PROJECTS AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE JAPANESE
AMBASSADOR, 16C LEOPARDS HILL ROAD, KABULONGA**

7TH MARCH 2023

SALUTATIONS

- **THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND INTERNAL SECURITY – HON JACK MWIMBU**
- **THE PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT – MS. LILLIAN KAPUSANA MUSONDA**
- **SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT**
- **THE PERMANENT SECRETARY – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION – MR. JOEL KAMOKO**
- **HIS EXCELLENCY THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO ZAMBIA - MR. TAKEUCHI KAZUYUKI**
- **MANAGEMENT AND STAFF AT THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN**
- **THE GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR GRASSROOTS HUMAN SECURITY PROJECTS (GGP) MEMBERS OF STAFF**
- **BRAVE HEART FOUNDATION (BHF) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE – MR. GERALD KASEBA**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS**
- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE AT THE CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY BETWEEN **THE GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR GRASSROOTS HUMAN SECURITY PROJECTS (GGP), A JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, DESIGNED TO MEET THE DIVERSE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND BRAVE HEART FOUNDATION.** I AM RELIABLY INFORMED THAT THIS SCHEME SUPPORTS PROJECTS PROPOSED BY VARIOUS BODIES SUCH AS NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES.

THE GGP PROGRAMME ORIGINALLY CALLED THE “SMALL SCALE GRANT ASSISTANCE” PROGRAMME IN 1989 WHEN IT

STARTED, HAS CONTINUED TO IMPACT THE GRASSROOTS COUNTRYWIDE OVER THE YEARS. THE NAME CHANGED TO “GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR GRASS-ROOTS PROJECTS” IN 1995 AND THEN TO IT’S CURRENT NAME IN 2003.

IN ZAMBIA, SINCE 1990, ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-THREE (173) GRANT CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN SIGNED FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PROJECTS. THESE INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BRAND NEW SCHOOL IN MUMBWA DISTRICT, CENTRAL PROVINCE BUILT IN 2017, THE CONSTRUCTION OF MPUNDE SECONDARY SCHOOL IN KABWE DISTRICT, CENTRAL PROVINCE BUILT IN 2018 AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SCIENCE LABORATORY AT LILANDA COMBINED SCHOOL IN 2022 TO MENTION BUT A FEW.

THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT IS GRATEFUL FOR THE GGP PROJECT WHICH PROVIDES FLEXIBLE AND TIMELY SUPPORT TO DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL. IT HAS INDEED ACQUIRED AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION WHICH WILL STAND THE TEST OF TIME.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THE REASON FOR OUR GATHERING TODAY IS TO WITNESS THE COMMENCEMENT OF YET ANOTHER PROJECT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PRIMARY SCHOOL IN MEHEBA RESETTLEMENT SCHEME AT KALUMBILA DISTRICT, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCE. THIS UNDERTAKING IS WORTH EIGHTY-

THREE THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED AND EIGHT US DOLLARS (83,438\$). THE PROJECT OUTLINE INCLUDES:

- CONSTRUCTING PRIMARY SCHOOL (1×3 AND 1×4)
- CONSTRUCTING ABLUTION BLOCK
- CONSTRUCTING BOREHOLE AND
- INSTALLING SOLAR PANEL

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

IT IS GRATIFYING TO KNOW THAT BRAVE HEART FOUNDATION HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION. THE FOUNDATION HAS BEEN PROVIDING TEACHING MATERIALS AND STATIONERY TO CHILDREN WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL. BHF HAS ALSO BEEN DISPATCHING VOLUNTEER TEACHERS TO THE MEHEBA RESETTLEMENT SCHEME SINCE 2012. DESPITE THEIR EFFORTS, THE EDUCATION SITUATION AT THE SETTLEMENT ESPECIALLY THE AREA FOR FORMER REFUGEES HAS NOT IMPROVED. CONSIDERING THIS SITUATION, BRAVE HEART FOUNDATION SOUGHT PERMISSION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF RESETTLEMENT UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT TO USE SOME LAND FOR CONSTRUCTING A PRIMARY SCHOOL.

THE FOUNDATION ALSO GOT APPROVAL FROM THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION FOR DISPATCHING TEACHERS AND PROCURING FURNITURE AFTER THE SCHOOL WAS

CONSTRUCTED. HOWEVER, I AM INFORMED THAT BECAUSE OF THEIR LIMITED BUDGET, THE ORGANIZATION REQUESTED THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TO ASSIST THE PROJECT CONSTRUCT A PRIMARY SCHOOL IN THE SETTLEMENT.

AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN DECIDED TO EXTEND ITS ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF IT'S GGP, WHICH AIMS AT CONSTRUCTING A PRIMARY SCHOOL ALONG WITH ABLUTION BLOCK, BOREHOLE AND A SOLAR PANEL.

ONCE THE PROJECT IS COMPLETED, IT IS EXPECTED THAT APPROXIMATELY FOUR HUNDRED (400) CHILDREN WILL BE ABLE TO ACCESS PRIMARY EDUCATION IN THE RESETTLEMENT AREA. THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION'S INCLUSIVENESS AGENDA, HENCE THE FREE EDUCATION POLICY.

THIS GESTURE BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WILL ENABLE CHILDREN IN THE SURROUNDING AREAS TO ALSO GO TO SCHOOL. THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN IN THE SETTLEMENT, JAPAN HAS GREATLY CONTRIBUTED TO ACHIEVING THE 8TH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (8NDP) WHICH EMPHASIZES ON QUALITY EDUCATION IN ZAMBIA.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.