

**VERY
URGENT**



PRESIDENT LUNGU WITNESSES TOYOTA TSUSHO MOU SIGNING

Yokohama, Japan, (Wednesday, 28th August, 2019)----- His Excellency Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, this morning oversaw the signing of two Memoranda of Understanding for Solar PV power stations between Toyota Tsusho and the Ministry of Energy.

The power stations will be built in Western Province.

Mr Ichiro Kashitani, the President and Chief Executive of Toyota Tsusho Corporation signed on behalf of his company while Foreign Affairs Minister, Hon. Joseph Malanji signed on behalf of the Minister of Energy, Mr Matthew Nkhuwa.

Upon installation, the power stations will ease the power deficit in Western Province.

Speaking earlier when he paid a courtesy call on President Lungu, Mr Kashitani said Toyota Tsusho is committed to working with the Zambian people and already has 15,500 employees in Africa.

And President Lungu praised Toyota Tsusho for setting up an outgrower scheme of more than 5000 small scale farmers in Southern Province.

The small-scale farmers are grouped in cooperatives and grow guar, a crop used in mining houses and a smoothening agent for copper cathodes.

President Lungu thanked the company for supporting Government effort in diversifying crop production.

Government has identified agriculture as the economic mainstay because of its potential to create jobs and reduce poverty, said President Lungu.

The President also met Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) President, Mr Shinichi Kataoka who paid a courtesy call on him.

Mr Kataoka praised President Lungu for his effort in infrastructure development.

"Your National Economic Plan is wonderful, and your effort in supporting the private sector and infrastructure development is impressive," the JICA Chief said.

He said JICA focuses on people to people contact and hence the deployment of many volunteers to Zambia.

The President hailed JICA for supporting Zambia in the area of sanitation, clean water provision, roads, energy and food.

The President also met representatives from United Nations Industrial Development (UNIDO.)

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