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## **PRESIDENT LUNGU MEETS JAPAN, EGYPT LEADERS**

**Yokohama, Japan, (Friday, 30th August, 2019)----- His Excellency Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia** today held bilateral talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

Prime Minister Abe said Japan will assist Zambia in its effort to ensure debt sustainability and has since sent an expert to the Ministry of Finance to achieve that goal.

Mr Abe asked for Zambia's support for a Japanese candidate for judge at the United Nations.

President Lungu thanked the Prime Minister for Japanese support to Zambia in Education, Health, Water and Sanitation, Transport, Energy, Refugee Welfare and Resettlement of former refugees.

The President also acknowledged Japan's support in Agriculture and Fisheries, Infrastructure Development, Sports, Private Sector Development, and the National Kaizen project.

The President applauded the work of Japanese volunteers and various non-governmental organisations from Japan who continue to contribute positively to the lives of Zambians.

The President underscored the need to increase and diversify trade between the two countries beyond copper and motor vehicles currently being traded.

He called for increased Japanese investment to Zambia, which currently comprises Toyota, Hitachi and Kansai Paint.

The President also thanked Japan for the grant aid of 500 million Yen for the procurement of equipment to the University of Zambia's School of Veterinary Medicine.

He further expressed gratitude for the recent grant of US\$ 3 million for the procurement of health centre kits.

The President congratulated Japan for winning the bid to host the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic games, and looked forward to Zambia's participation in the games.

Prime Minister Abe said Japan and Zambia were like-minded and even if there were different approaches to solution, the two countries must find common ground.

Thirty two Zambian students have benefitted from the Abe Initiative, started by the Prime Minister.

Meanwhile, President Lungu has tasked his ministers to ensure all agreements signed with Egypt are implemented.

Speaking when he met President Sisi, the President said all areas of joint cooperation, including, agriculture should be attended to.

And President Sisi said close supervision was key if projects were to be implemented.

"The Joint Commission is significant for promotion of cooperation. Let's prepare all areas of mutual interest," President Sisi said.

The Egyptian President also proposed cooperation in counter terrorism.

President Lungu proposed more trade among African states and wondered why African States should wait for the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) to learn about each other's potential.

"I don't need to come to TICAD to learn about other countries, so let us intensify bilateral trade and follow up on agreements," President Lungu said.

Meanwhile, President Sisi has asked the Zambian Government to provide samples of wood with a promise that Egypt can stop importing wood from Europe if Zambia provided the right product.

Egypt spends K1 billion on imported wood.

President Lungu directed Foreign Affairs Minister Joseph Malanji and Commerce and Trade Minister Christopher Yaluma, who were in the meeting, to follow up the request with ZAFFICO.

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Issued by:

Isaac Chipampe  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
(PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS)  
**STATE HOUSE**

