



Republic of Zambia

SPEECH
BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. EDGAR CHAGWA LUNGU,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA,
WHEN HE MEETS WITH
JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY
(JICA) VOLUNTEERS ON FRIDAY, 5TH APRIL, 2019, AT
STATE HOUSE AT 10:00HRS.

STATE HOUSE
LUSAKA

- **HONOURABLE MINISTERS;**
- **YOUR EXCELLENCY MR. HIDENOBU SOBASHIMA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN ACCREDITED TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA;**
- **MR. JUNICHI HANAI, CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY;**
- **SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS;**
- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

OHAYOU GOZAIMASU (GOOD MORNING)!

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I WELCOME YOU ALL TO ZAMBIA AND STATE HOUSE IN PARTICULAR. WE APPRECIATE THE JICA VOLUNTEERS BASED IN ZAMBIA, FOR THE NOBLE WORK THAT THEY CONTINUE TO DO AROUND THE COUNTRY.

OVER MANY YEARS, JAPAN HAS BEEN PROVIDING UNWAVERING SUPPORT TO ZAMBIA IN VARIOUS FORMS, INCLUDING THROUGH THE WORK OF JICA AND ITS VOLUNTEERS SPREAD ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THIS INDEED BEARS TESTIMONY OF THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS THAT ZAMBIA AND JAPAN CONTINUE TO SHARE AND FOR THIS WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL.

AS YOU MAY BE AWARE, I HAD THE PLEASURE OF VISITING YOUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY IN DECEMBER 2018, FOLLOWING AN INVITATION BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. SHINZO ABE, PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN. HIS EXCELLENCY AND I HAD FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS AIMED AT ENHANCING OUR RELATIONS AND COOPERATION EVEN FURTHER.

WHILST IN JAPAN, I WAS GREATLY HONOURED TO PAY A COURTESY CALL ON HIS MAJESTY EMPEROR AKIHITO A FEW DAYS BEFORE HIS BIRTHDAY.

I EXTEND BEST WISHES AND GOOD HEALTH TO HIS MAJESTY AND AS HE HANDS OVER THE THRONE TO HIS SUCCESSOR. HE HAS RUN A GOOD RACE.

DURING THE VISIT TO JAPAN, I ALSO MET WITH THE PRESIDENT OF JICA, PROFESSOR SHINICHI KITAOKA AND I EXPRESSED THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT'S APPRECIATION OF THE WORK OF JICA IN ZAMBIA.

I ALSO ASSURED HIM THAT I WOULD MEET WITH THE JICA VOLUNTEERS TO PERSONALLY THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GREAT WORKS HERE IN ZAMBIA. I AM THEREFORE GLAD THAT THIS EVENT IS NOW TAKING PLACE.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

ZAMBIA HAS BEEN RECEIVING JAPAN OVERSEAS COOPERATION VOLUNTEERS (JOCVS) FOR THE PAST FOUR DECADES. THEY HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN SECTORS SUCH AS HEALTH, EDUCATION, ENERGY, WATER RESOURCES AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT, BUT TO MENTION A FEW.

THE WORK YOU ARE DOING IN THIS COUNTRY COMPLEMENTS THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN ENSURING THAT SUSTAINABLE GROWTH IS ACHIEVED WITHOUT LEAVING ANYONE BEHIND. CLEARLY, THE LIVES OF ZAMBIANS HAS BEEN ENHANCED DUE TO YOUR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS.

DURING THE COURSE OF YOUR WORK, YOU HAVE COME ACROSS AND INTERACTED WITH ZAMBIANS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE; FROM THE LITTLE BOY IN SINDA TO THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL IN SERENJE, ALL WHOSE LIVES YOU HAVE TOUCHED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER AND LIVED AMONG THEM PEACEFULLY.

YOU HAVE SHARED YOUR SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE AND HELPED BUILD THE CAPACITY OF THOSE WHO MAY NOT HAVE THE GOOD FORTUNE OF OPPORTUNITY AND EDUCATION SUCH AS YOURSELVES.

I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT MANY OF YOU HAVE LEARNT OUR LOCAL LANGUAGES AND CUSTOMS, WHICH IS A TESTAMENT OF THE CLOSE INTERACTIONS WHICH YOU HAVE HAD WITH THE ZAMBIAN PEOPLE.

SYNERGIES MUST BE CREATED. I HOPE THAT YOU ARE ALSO LEAVING A TRACE OF THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE EVERYWHERE YOU GO IN THIS COUNTRY.

I AM HAPPY TO NOTE THE NUMBERS OF JICA VOLUNTEERS WHICH ZAMBIA HAS BEEN RECEIVING. MORE ARE WELCOME.

JICA, THROUGH ITS VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMME, HAS INDEED DEMONSTRATED TO US AS A COUNTRY THAT THE ENHANCED EFFECTIVENESS OF TARGETED TECHNICAL COOPERATION CAN INDEED CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL OBJECTIVES.

IN THIS REGARD, LET ME COMMEND THE EXEMPLARY WORK OF THE VOLUNTEERS IN THEIR COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN ZAMBIAN SCHOOLS, ESPECIALLY IN SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS AND SPORTS. THIS HAS TREMENDOUSLY RESULTED IN THE STRENGTHENING OF TEACHERS' PERFORMANCE AND SKILLS, AS WELL AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS.

IN THE HEALTH SECTOR, THE VOLUNTEERS HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY TO HELP PROVIDE IMPROVED HEALTH CARE AT HEALTH CENTRES, AS WELL AS PROMOTING AWARENESS OF VARIOUS HEALTH RELATED ISSUES.

I AM PLEASED THAT THE FOCUS OF THE JAPANESE VOLUNTEERS HAS ALSO BEEN ON AGRICULTURE. THIS IS AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE WORKING ON DIVERSIFYING THE ZAMBIAN ECONOMY. THE NUMEROUS PROJECTS IN THIS SECTOR HAVE SUPPORTED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SMALL-SCALE FARMERS.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT ZAMBIAN CITIZENS HAVE ACQUIRED SOME VALUABLE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE FROM YOUR EXPERIENCE WHICH THEY WILL BE ABLE TO UTILISE IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY.

THERE IS NEED FOR US TO APPRECIATE AND CELEBRATE THE DAILY EFFORTS OF THESE VOLUNTEERS AS A WAY OF ENCOURAGING THEM. IN THIS REGARD, I WISH TO APPEAL TO MY FELLOW ZAMBIANS TO BE INSPIRED AND VOLUNTEER FOR VARIOUS WORKS EVEN IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES.

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

AS I CONCLUDE, LET US REMEMBER THAT VOLUNTEERING IS NOT AN EASY TASK. IT IS A SELFLESS AND NOBLE ACT TOWARDS OTHERS, EXPECTING NOTHING IN RETURN. THE VOLUNTEERS HAVE LEFT THEIR HOMES AND FAMILIES IN JAPAN TO VENTURE INTO ZAMBIA TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AMONG OUR COMMUNITIES.

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA AS WELL AS ON MY OWN BEHALF, WE SAY 'THANK YOU'. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE, PERSEVERANCE AND GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONVICTION IN LEAVING BEHIND ALL THAT IS FAMILIAR AND YOUR COMFORT ZONES TO COME AND BE OF SERVICE TO OTHERS HERE IN ZAMBIA. IT IS INDEED MY SINCERE HOPE THAT YOU ARE EXPERIENCING THE TRUE ZAMBIAN HOSPITALITY AND THAT YOUR STAY IN ZAMBIA WILL BE MEMORABLE.

ONCE AGAIN, I WISH TO EXTEND MY GRATITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN FOR ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT AND I REAFFIRM THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO ENHANCING BILATERAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION AT ALL LEVELS, INCLUDING THROUGH THE WORK OF JICA AND ITS VOLUNTEERS.

ARIGATOU (THANKYOU)!