

Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects

Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for the Project for Improvement of Bee Keeping Facilities for Katope Cooperative in Kasungu District 11 December, 2018



(From Left) Fr. Henry Zulu, Director of Social and Development Commission, Mr. Patterson Kandonje, District Agriculture Development Officer, Ambassador Kae Yanagisawa, Mr. Boniface Msaya, Chairperson of Katope Cooperative

On Tuesday, 11th December 2018, Her Excellency Kae Yanagisawa, Ambassador of Japan to Malawi, signed a grant contract with Fr. Henry Zulu, Director of Social and Development Commission, Archdiocese of Lilongwe, for The Project for Improvement of Bee Keeping Facilities for Katope Cooperative in Kasungu District.

Malawi is facing multiple challenges such as poverty, high population growth, lack of sustainable energy sources, lack of diversification of income sources, and environmental degradation. The communities around the Kasungu National Park face similar challenges, and they have ventured into the Park in search for firewood as alternative sources of income and energy needs for their households. This has affected ecological system of the Park and eventually led to endangering harmonious co-existence of animals and the population. To tackle these challenges, the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi Diocese of Lilongwe (CADECOM) has been supporting the communities around the Kasungu National Park through an integrated approach including agriculture, forest management and beekeeping. The grant amounting to **USD64, 243**, provided under the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects of the Government of Japan, is intended to supplement the existing initiative of the CADECOM in assisting the Katope Cooperative. The grant will support CADECOM to procure equipment, protective wears and a processing unit for Katope Cooperative with an aim of enhancing efficiency and hygienic production of honey by the cooperative.

Speaking during the ceremony, Ambassador Yanagisawa emphasized that the Government of Japan is committed to support Malawi in accordance with the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III. She continued to explain that economic transformation through diversification of agriculture is important and this process should be pursued in a sustainable manner so that natural environment will be protected for the future generation. In connection to this, she kindly appealed that the success of this project will enhance the livelihood of the community as well as their sense of self-reliance.