

Remarks made by NAITO, Yasushi, Ambassador of Japan to  
Malawi at the Completion Ceremony of Sesame Export  
Promotion MBS Capacity Development Project on 17<sup>th</sup> March

- Mr. Symon Mandala, Director General, Malawi Bureau of Standards
- Mr. Hyoung Joon Lim, WFP Country Director and Representative
- Mr. Thomas Senganimalunje, Deputy Director General of MBS
- Distinguished trainers
- Ladies and Gentlemen

**Good afternoon**

It is my great honor to deliver remarks at this closing ceremony marking the successful conclusion of the “Sesame Export Promotion Through Capacity Development of Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS)” project, implemented by the World Food Programme under the TICAD package of Japanese Supplementary Budget.

This project, with a budget of 1 million US dollars has been a remarkable journey from March 2025 to March 2026. Its primary goal has been to enhance the capacity of MBS to ensure the quality and safety of Malawi’s sesame exports, thereby boosting competitiveness in international markets.

One of the highlights of this initiative was the procurement and installation of a pesticide residue testing device—the LCMS 8060 Liquid Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer—supplied by Japan’s Shimadzu Corporation. This analytical instrument represents a significant technological upgrade, enabling MBS to conduct highly sensitive and precise testing that meets international standards.

However, advanced equipment alone cannot drive sustainable progress. The true strength lies in the expertise of the people operating and managing these technologies. Over the past year, MBS staff have undergone ten comprehensive training sessions covering critical areas

such as advanced analytical techniques, laboratory management, and quality assurance systems. These capacity-building efforts are instrumental as MBS advances toward ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation, a globally recognized benchmark of technical competence and reliability.

Last August, the Government of Japan hosted TICAD9 (Tokyo International Conference on African Development 9), under the theme of “Co-create Innovative Solutions for Africa”. This initiative aims to leverage Japan’s technology and expertise to collaboratively develop solutions for various challenges facing Africa. This project precisely embodies that goal. Going forward, as promised at TICAD9, Japan intends to utilize its technology and expertise to solve Malawi’s challenges, particularly in areas such as agriculture and healthcare, in cooperation with international organisations

I would also like to emphasize the strategic partnerships fostered through this project. Collaboration with the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), South Africa Bureau of Standards and the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) has facilitated valuable knowledge sharing, mentorship, and strengthened regional and international linkages. These relationships will continue to play an essential role in Malawi’s ongoing journey to align its quality infrastructure with international best practices.

To the dedicated staff of MBS present here today, your commitment to learning and excellence is commendable. The skills and knowledge you have acquired are vital for ensuring that Malawian sesame—and indeed other exports—meet the stringent requirements of global markets. Your efforts contribute directly to raising Malawi’s profile as a reliable and quality-conscious exporter.

As we conclude this important phase, I encourage you all to sustain the momentum gained through this project, to maintain high standards, and to nurture the institutional capabilities that underpin Malawi’s export growth. Reversing Malawi’s export decline and promoting export is one of the most important agenda.

Finally, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the World Food Programme for your exceptional leadership and coordination throughout this

project. I also thank all partner organizations, trainers, and participants whose dedication has made this initiative a success.

Together, we are building a future where Malawi's products are trusted worldwide, its institutions are strong and credible, and its economy thrives on the global stage.

Thank you very much, and I wish you all continued success in your important work.

End