

Remarks by Mr NAITO Yasushi, Ambassador of Japan to Malawi at the Project Site Visit to the Chikangulu Community Day Secondary School(7th April 2026)

- ❖ Honourable Joseph Mwanamvekha, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Decentralization,
- ❖ Teachers, students, parents, and community leaders from the Chikangulu Community Day Secondary School,
- ❖ Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning! Muli Bwanji nonse!

It is with honor and gratitude that I stand before you today. I wish to express my deepest appreciation to Honourable Minister Joseph Mathyola Mwanamvekha for inviting us to visit Chirandzulu District. We came all the way from Lilongwe and arrived just now, and are touched by the warm welcome we have received.

My primary purpose for being here today is to witness firsthand the progress of Chikangulu Community Day Secondary School, which was constructed with Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects and officially handed over in 2018. It is truly gratifying to observe that this school has been utilized to the maximum, maintained well and cherished over these past 8 years.

In this regard, I would like to acknowledge the invaluable support provided by Honourable Minister Mwanamvekha himself during the construction of this school, which included the provision of essential items such as teachers' desks.

In the approximately eight years since its completion, I believe a number of learners have diligently pursued their education here, growing into responsible citizens and young leaders who now contribute to the economic development of Malawi. This outcome perfectly embodies the beneficial impact intended by the development assistance of Japan, and on behalf of the Japanese people, I extend my heartfelt congratulations on your remarkable achievements.

Chikangulu Community Day Secondary School stands as a shining example of the partnership between Japan and Malawi. Through our Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects, Japan has supported the construction of classrooms, toilets, and kitchen facilities in approximately 41 schools across Malawi, furthering our commitment to education.

We pledge to continue our support for the education sector in Malawi, which is instrumental in nurturing the children who will build this nation's future. I earnestly hope that Chikangulu Community Day Secondary School will continue to be cared for with the same dedication it has shown thus far. It is my sincere expectation that this institution will produce many more future leaders who will guide this nation, much like Honourable Minister Mwanamvekha.

After arriving three months, I had an honour of interacting with Minister Mwanamvekah several times including dinner at my residence. He is the most dedicated leader who tackles with the most pressing issue of economic reform of this country with enormous

passion and energy involving a number of stakeholders. That is why he is respected by the nation and international community including Japan. As a matter of fact his budget was passed with overwhelming support recently. Despite the extremely difficult environment, development partners are supporting economic development of Malawi .

I feel fortunate to be Ambassador of Japan to Malawi, as we have strong bilateral relations based on trust. The trust was forged through a number of joint work, such as International Airport, hydro power station, bridge and roads, irrigation systems, and teachers training colleges. Ministry of Finance headed by Honourable Minister Mwanamvekha is the leading Ministry that make the cooperation possible and I thank Minister for his effort on our collaborations.

Through our collaboration, ownership of the community is the most important driver that Japan has been emphasizing over the years, and I have witnessed strong ownership from the people of Chikangulu.

Finally, I wish to express my profound gratitude for the wonderful welcome we received today, including the beautiful songs and dances.

Zikomo Kwambiri!

Thank you for your attention!