

**STATEMENT FOR THE CABINET SECRETARY, HON. (AMB.) UKUR YATANI DURING THE SIGNING OF THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND JAPAN'S GRANT AID UNDER ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ON PROVISION OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT ON FRIDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020 AT 7.30 A.M.**

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**H.E. Mr. Ryoichi Horie**

**Japanese Ambassador to Kenya**

**Mr. Katsutoshi Komori**

**Chief Representative of JICA Kenya**

**Hon. Mutahi Kagwe, Cabinet Secretary of Health**

**Members of the Japanese Delegation**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. **Let me** welcome you and your delegation and thank you for coming to this early morning signing ceremony of the Exchange of Notes in respect to Human Resource Development Scholarships programme and the Programme on Provision of Medical Equipment.

2. **Your Excellency**, it is just last week on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2020, that we signed a Loan Agreement for Health Sector policy Loan for Attainment of **Universal Health Coverage** Phase II amounting to approximately **JP¥ 8 billion (Approx. Kshs. 8.14 billion)**. This support will in addition to the increasing Universal Health Coverage in the country will also contribute greatly to the fight against COVID -19 pandemic which is currently a major health challenge in the country.

3. The first Exchange of Notes we have signed today for a grant amounting to **JP¥ 1 billion (Approx. 1.02 billion)** for the provision of Medical equipment which will be installed in various health facilities and will greatly enhance healthcare delivery to all Kenyans and also modernize our health facilities countrywide. The

UHC phase 2 loan and this grant will contribute to achievement of Health sector strategic goal of ‘**Attaining equitable, affordable, accessible and quality health care for all**’, which is a part of the Big 4 Agenda.

**4. Your Excellency**, the second Exchange of Notes for Human Resource Development Scholarships that will also signed will provide a Grant funds amounting to **JP¥ 239 million (Approx. 243.54 million)**. This grant will offer scholarships to Government Officers to study in Japan and acquire various skills which will enhance the service delivery to the country. We note through similar grants that your Government have managed to offer scholarships to more than 140 officers in various fields. This is an engagement that we shall continue to pursue with your Government in the coming years. We are therefore grateful for your Government’s support in building capacity to the Kenya Public Service.

**5. Finally, Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen**, we once again thank the Government of Japan for the continued support to development of our country and look forward for more cooperation going forward.

**THANK YOU.**