

STATEMENT FOR THE CABINET SECRETARY, HON. (AMB.) UKUR YATANI DURING THE SIGNING OF THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES AND GRANT AGREEMENTS FOR JAPAN'S GRANT AID ON FRIDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2020 AT 8.00 A.M.

H.E. Mr. Ryoichi Horie

Japanese Ambassador to Kenya

Mr. Katsutoshi Komori

Chief Representative of JICA Kenya

Hon. Charles Keter, Cabinet Secretary of Energy

Members of the Japanese Delegation

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Let me welcome you and your delegation and thank you for coming to this signing ceremony of the Exchange of Notes and Grant Agreement in respect to Improvement of Power Distribution Systems in and Around Nakuru and Mombasa Cities and Grant Agreement for Human Resource Development Scholarships programme.

2. Your Excellency, within this month we have seen the Government of Kenya and Government of Japan cooperation grow with the signing of various financing agreements, the most recent being the 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)**, which will contribute greatly to the fight against COVID -19 pandemic which is currently a major health challenge in the country.

3. Today, we have signed the Exchange of Notes and Grant Agreement amounting to **JP¥ 1,887,000,000 (Approx. 1.945 billion)** for the Improvement of Power Distribution Systems in and around Nakuru and Mombasa Cities. This project will involve installation of additional 109 transformers and extension of the existing Power Distribution system in the two cities. The project will greatly improve power distribution system in the two cities and is aimed at making the power distribution system more efficient and reduce power losses.

4. Your Excellency, the second Grant Agreement we signed is for Human Resource Development Scholarships programme amounting to **JP¥ 239 million (Approx. Kshs. 243.54 million)**. This programme will offer scholarships to Government Officers to study in Japan and acquire various skills which will enhance the service delivery to the country. We appreciate the Government of Japan since through similar grants that we have managed to offer scholarships to more than 140 officers in various fields in the public service.

5. We have received so far on a cumulative basis, financial support amounting to **J¥ 543.687 billion** or approximately **Kshs. 481.34 billion** to date. Indeed, Japan is one of our major donors.

6. As I conclude Your Excellency, I wish to request to have a policy dialogue soon to discuss future cooperation projects between our countries.

7. 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.