

**Remarks by His Excellency KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to South Sudan
on the occasion of the Signing and Exchange of Notes Ceremony for
the Project for the Improvement of Water Supply System of Juba in South Sudan
at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**

Hon. Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation,
Hon. Amb. Lumumba Maklele Nyajok, Director General of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation,
Dr. Mitsuaki FURUKAWA, Chief Representative of JICA South Sudan,
Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my greatest pleasure and honour to have an opportunity to attend this ceremony that marks our collaborating landmark project for the Improvement of Water Supply System of Juba. This project aims to improve access to safe water for people in Juba by expanding the capacity of water treatment and scaling up water distribution. Three years have passed since the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of South Sudan first exchanged the Notes for the project. Today, we are proud to announce an additional funding for this project, raising the total disbursement amounting to approximately 40 million US dollars, to address the cost increase due to the political crisis while adhering to the project scale as originally planned.

As the population in Juba has become larger, we have witnessed a sharp increase of demand for water supply. In the meantime, damages caused by the conflict and the lack of proper maintenance activities have deteriorated the water supply facilities. As a result, the population with access to clean water in Juba stood at just 8% in 2011, and unfortunately, this figure has gone even lower since then, despite all the efforts.

The Project for the Improvement of Water Supply System of Juba directly grapples with this discrepancy between water supply and demand. In this project, Japan set up a new water treatment plant, a service reservoir, 8 water tank stations and 120 water tapping points in Juba. By the end of September 2017, as much as 400 thousand of Juba residents will have ready access to safe drinking water at home, thereby enabling people to enjoy the rights to pursue lifestyles we wish to pursue.

This project not only fulfills the basic needs of individuals but also facilitates the healthy and productive life of women and children in the communities. Reduction of the work for fetching water will immediately emancipate women and children from labor: women will have extra hours to engage in other employment opportunities, and children, in their turns, will learn better in the newly-gained hours of studies. Furthermore, improved public health through the use of safe, stable water supply will decrease the number of patients due to

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waterborne diseases, such as cholera, diarrhoea and typhoid.

Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who have worked so hard to move this project forward, especially those at the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, the South Sudan Urban Water Corporation (SSUWC) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). In closing, I wish the best for the successful completion of the project and look forward to the day when every single person in Juba enjoys the easy access to clean water and better livelihoods.

Thank you very much for your attention.