

Wednesday, 3 June, 2015

**Remarks by His Excellency KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to South Sudan
at the *Launching Event for the Western Equatoria Chapter of
the Back to Learning Campaign*
in Yambio, Western Equatoria**

H.E. Col. Joseph Bangasi Bakosoro, Governor of Western Equatoria State,

Hon. Philip Pia, Minister of Education, Western Equatoria State,

Hon. Hussein Enoka Ibrahim, Commissioner of Yambio County,

Mr. Jonathan Veitch, UNICEF Country Representative,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to be here with you on this special day to celebrate the launching of the Back to Learning Campaign in Yambio, Western Equatoria State. I was impressed by so many students here!

First and foremost, I would like to commend the efforts of the Government of Western Equatoria State to make this event possible and lead this campaign in this place to build a better future through education. I would also like to appreciate the endeavors of all those working in schools and communities in this state to ensure that children can actually go to school. Last but not least, UNICEF plays a pivotal role in providing technical and logistical support in the ongoing efforts to help children stay in school and also to provide communities with various tools for the improvement of livelihood.

The Government of Japan is committed to helping get children back to learning in the world's youngest nation. It is only through education that they can fulfill their potential and build a peaceful and stable future for all.

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For this Back to Learning campaign, Japan extends financial support for the procurement of learning materials for 40,000 out-of-school children in Western Equatoria State. Providing the necessary tools for pupil is crucial in their development and growth.

Education can better be promoted under a healthy environment. Japan supports Water and Sanitation for Health project with its contribution of \$80,000 through UNICEF. Also in Yambio Hospital, a solar water system is now in place to provide a sustainable safe water supply for patients and health service providers by Japan's funding.

With basic study tools and a healthy environment, I am hoping that these young people will lead their way to success and, in so doing, strengthen their communities and play a vital role in nation building. For such objectives, Japan made additional contribution of \$9.5 million for the overall UNICEF programmes throughout South Sudan in 2015.

Let me add that Japan made a great economic success thanks to a high literacy rate. When it opened its door to the world in the late 19th century, the literacy rate of Japan was almost 100%, as there were schools, or terakoya, throughout the country. I am hoping that South Sudan, and West Equatoria State in particular, will also be filled with schools with your efforts and our support.

The people of Japan will continue to work in partnership and friendship with the people of South Sudan for a peaceful and prosperous future for young generations.

Thank you for your attention.