

**Remarks by His Excellency KIYA Masahiko, Ambassador of Japan to South Sudan
at the Ground-breaking Ceremony for
the Construction of a River Port Facility and Drainages
in Mingkaman, Awerial County, Lakes State**

Honourable Kwong Danhier Gatluak, Minister of Transport, Roads and Bridges,
Honourable Wel Machukr, Minister of Local Government and Legal Agencies of Lakes State,
Honourable Abraham Mayen Kuc, Minister of Physical Infrastructure of Lakes State,
Honourable Deng Tong Kenjok, Commissioner of Awerial County, Lakes State,
Honourable Clement Taban Dominic, Undersecretary of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management,
Mr. Paul Cruickshank, UNOPS South Sudan Director and Representative,
Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you very much for the warm welcome you extend to me. Right before arriving at this venue, I observed the living conditions of the IDPs hosted in the town of Mingkaman. Upon the political crisis that broke out 20 months ago, as many as 100,000 South Sudanese fled their homes and rushed to this place. Awerial County demonstrated tremendously generous hospitality to those IDPs, kindly let them take shelter, and make Mingkaman their home. I would first like to take this opportunity to commend such camaraderie of South Sudanese people, especially of Lakes State and Awerial County local governments, to assist one another in hardships. Such generosity is definitely being extended to me, and it is an immense honour to have the chance to feel the hospitality of Mingkaman and its people.

Indeed, I feel immensely proud, on behalf of the Government and the people of Japan, to extend our goodwill and leave a physical footprint to the town of Mingkaman, and perhaps beyond. UNOPS is delivering Japan's goodwill assistance of USD 4.1 million for the installation of the Mingkaman River Port facility on the White Nile and a drainage system in the IDPs' living environment. This project is a reaffirmation of Japan's commitment to the humanitarian assistance to the people of South Sudan as well as a solid contribution to the humanitarian community in South Sudan to improve our methods of giving aid; specifically,

we are exploring riverine transport as a major alternative basis for the humanitarian relief delivery to the IDPs at a much lower cost, while improving the congested habitat for the distressed people that were once visitors but are now settling in Mingkaman.

Through this project, we are also proposing a form of humanitarian efforts that simultaneously serve the development purposes, including mid- to long-term livelihoods and economic development of South Sudan. The development of Mingkaman has long been put on hold due to the poor, unreliable road networks in its surroundings; however, we aspire to unlock its potential by opening up another economic avenue that the White Nile offers. Setting up the physical infrastructure will lay the foundation for a vibrant, prosperous Mingkaman which will receive and send out South Sudanese bright minds and commodities as well as services for a long time to come.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last but not least, today not only marks the ground-breaking of a mere construction project but the deepening of our bilateral friendship between Japan and South Sudan. With the generous support of the host community of Awerial and Lakes, the Japanese funds are executed by two Japanese nationals working for UNOPS, Ms. Hino and Mr. Fujio, who make the most of the Japanese ingenuity and technical expertise to deliver the source of quality livelihoods. On this occasion, I would like to encourage my fellow Japanese to work even harder to ensure the successful conveyance of the goodwill of the Japanese people to the South Sudanese people.

I thank you for your attention.