



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY

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PRESS RELEASE

GOVERNMENT AND JICA AGREE ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR THE NATIONAL KAIZEN PROJECT PHASE TWO

Government of the Republic of Zambia through the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have agreed on Technical Cooperation for the phase two (2) of the National KAIZEN Project.

The National KAIZEN Project is framework through which the Zambian Government through the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry and the Japanese Government through JICA are collaborating to promote KAIZEN widely in Zambia.

The Government of the Republic of Zambia has embraced KAIZEN as a national programme that will be used to transform the economy, improve performance and engender a culture of continuous improvement and create the atmosphere for continuous learning

The first phase of the project which started in April 2014 is ending in December this year and Phase two of the project, whose minutes of meetings was signed on Friday, 22 July, 2016, is expected to begin next year and last for the next three years.

Under phase 2 of the project, support will focus on expanding the KAIZEN activities. This will include enhanced integrated human development to cater for nationwide deployment of KAIZEN, increasing consultation activities in

increased number of organisations practising KAIZEN and equipment to enable the KAIZEN Institute of Zambia undertake the activities related to the expansion.

Before the signing ceremony, the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry, Mrs. Kayula Siame reiterated Government's desire for increased productivity in both private and public sectors as a necessary condition for sustainable development and thanked JICA for the continued support in helping Zambia deploy KAIZEN nationwide.

Mrs. Siame said transformation was at the heart of Government and KAIZEN is one of the key solutions and called for enhanced dialogue on the matter to ensure successful implementation of phase two.

And speaking earlier, JICA representative from Tokyo, Mr, Naota Mukai implored Zambia to continue with KAIZEN as the results of phase one were encouraging.

Mr. Mukai indicated that JICA would support the expansion of KAIZEN and ensure that more Zambians are trained in the project.

KAIZEN is a Japanese word meaning Change for Better or simply Continuous Improvement. It is a performance improvement tool that has been adopted from modern Japanese organisations such as Toyota.

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