

## **RE: WARNING TO BUYERS OF JAPANESE USED CARS**

The Embassy of the Republic of Zambia in Tokyo, Japan has noted with concern the increase in cases where Zambian nationals intending to buy cars from Japan through the Internet are being swindled.

It is in this vein that the Embassy is warning Zambian nationals intending to purchase used cars from Japan through the internet to be cautious of unscrupulous dealers and websites.

The Zambian Embassy in Tokyo, Japan has no capacity to retrieve money on behalf of swindled Zambians. This is due to the fact that Japanese law requires that complainants personally present their cases to the police in Japan or International Police (Inter-Pol) in Zambia in order for them to institute investigations and act accordingly. The Embassy is not permitted to do that on behalf of the complainants.

In many cases, companies involved are non-existent or are bankrupt while most fraudulent car-dealer websites are not owned by Japanese.

Therefore, Zambians are strongly advised to buy cars from established companies, most of which have established branches in Zambia and can attend to enquiries as well as offer advisory services about car purchases.