

Japan Provides Grant Aid to Improve Makuti–Chirundu Section of North–South Corridor

Japan has extended grant aid of approximately USD 21 million to improve a steep section of road between Makuti and Chirundu on the North–South Corridor. This stretch of road is used by many heavy vehicles and many accidents occur. The construction of the new road will be supervised by JICA and implemented by the Government of Zimbabwe.

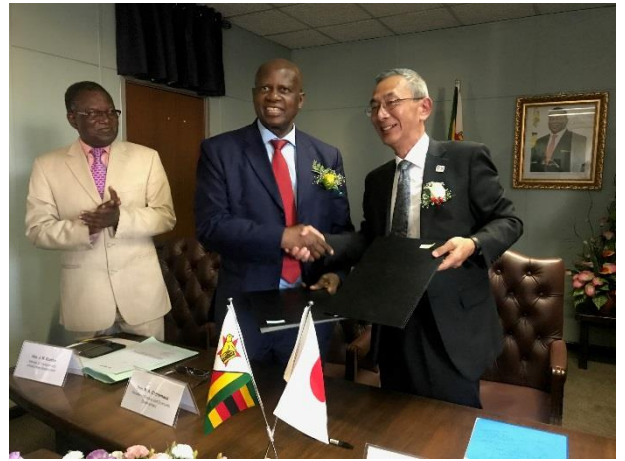
On 19 June, Ambassador Iwado signed the Exchange of Notes for this project with the Hon. Patrick Chinamasa, Minister of Finance and Economic Development and Ambassador Iwado. Also attending the signing ceremony was the Hon. Dr Joram Gumbo, Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development, and the Hon. Dr Lieutenant General (Rtd.) Sibusiso Moyo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Also signed were the Grant Agreements for the project by the JICA Southern Africa Representative, Mr Tomohiro Seki, and Minister Chinamasa.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Ambassador Iwado said that this new road would enhance the connectivity of people and economy, its impact extending beyond Zimbabwe to the region as a whole. In constructing the new road, Japanese highway engineers will share with their Zimbabwean counterparts their experience and the latest expertise gained from highway construction in Japan's mountainous terrain. Around 250 local road workers will be employed, and following Japan's very strict environmental regulations will ensure that the environmental impacts of the project will be minimised.

Minister Chinamasa expressed his gratitude for Japan's support, highlighting the importance of the North–South Corridor for Zimbabwe's economic development.



Artist's impression of the new road



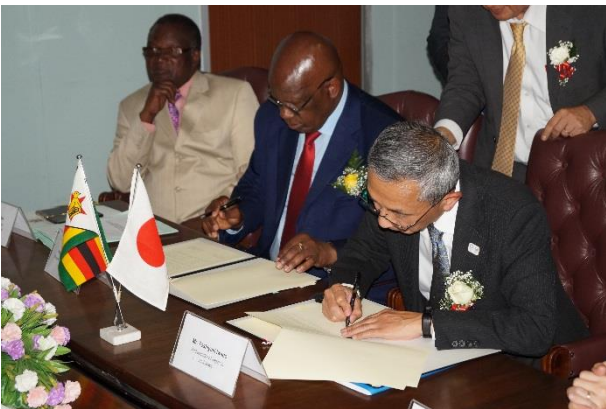
Exchanging Notes



Hon. Minister Chinamasa thanks Japan for its support



Ambassador Iwado says that the road will improve connectivity



Signing the Exchange of Notes, with Hon. Minister Gumbo on the left witnessing the signing.



The Grant Agreements were signed and exchanged between JICA Representative Mr Seki and Hon. Minister Chinamasa



Hon. Minister Moyo (left of Hon. Minister Gumbo) also attended the ceremony.