

**SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E. MR YOSHINOBU HIRAISHI, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE HAND-OVER CEREMONY OF “THE PROJECT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A PRIMARY SCHOOL IN BUBI DISTRICT” IMPLEMENTED BY WORLD VISION ZIMBABWE**

**June 18, 2014**

(Salutations)

Salibonani lonke. Ngiyajabula ukufika esikolo se Molo Primary School, esigabeni se Bubi District. Infundo yikusasa yethu.

(Greetings to you all. It is my pleasure to visit Molo Primary School, in Bubi District. Education is our future.)

It is my great pleasure to visit the Molo Primary School, Bubi District, Matabeleland North Province. Today's ceremony has a great significance for me, as a new Japanese Ambassador, to visit one of the distant parts of the country and more particularly, to witness our assistance coming to fruition.

A poorly equipped learning environment often causes bad results and lack of students' motivation which might affect the quality of education in this country. For this reason, our decision to extend our assistance to this school was not a very difficult one.

Education is a prerequisite not just for national socio-economic development, but also to enable pupils to improve their own standard of living and that of their families. The Government of Zimbabwe is committed to maintaining high literacy rates in the country, but recent economic factors have not been favourable, resulting in poor school infrastructure. I would like to appeal to parents to keep children in school, particularly the girl children who are often made to stay at home due to various issues including security problems.

I would like to commend the local community here who mobilised themselves into groups for the provision of general labour for the clearing of the site, collection of stones, sand and water for construction purposes. Your assistance greatly contributed towards the success of

this project. Your valuable input has instilled in parents a sense of ownership of the school. We encourage such local participation and ownership. The school truly belongs to you, the community.

It is our sincere hope that the improvement of the learning environment at this school for both teachers and pupils will achieve better Grade 7 results thereby enabling pupils to proceed to secondary school and ultimately tertiary education so that they can contribute to their community and the country as a whole.

Our great gratitude also goes to our cooperating partner, World Vision Zimbabwe, not only for completing this project, but also more importantly, for bringing the plight of the school to our attention.

Siyalifisela impumelelo kukonke elizakwenza ngesikhathi esilandelayo.

(We wish you all the best in your future endeavours. )

**AMHLOPE. THANK YOU**