

**SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. YOSHI HIRAISH, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL HAND-OVER OF A VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE TO OASIS ZIMBABWE FOR “THE PROJECT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE IN HARARE”**

**FEBRUARY 20, 2015**

**SALUTATIONS,  
Mangwanani. Mamuka sei?**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is my great pleasure to attend this happy occasion which marks the successful culmination of a very important project implemented by our partner, Oasis Zimbabwe. The construction of this vocational training centre was made possible by a grant of approximately US 81 thousand dollars that the Embassy extended to Oasis.

This Centre mainly targets women and young girls from disadvantaged backgrounds in the area of Epworth. They will learn sewing and IT skills which will assist their social independence.

We put a great emphasis on the promotion of human resource development and social protection, particularly for youth and women. Since we have previous experience in the establishment of vocational training centre in Gweru in partnership with Zimbabwe Red Cross as well as the establishment of a Counseling and Care Centre for women who experienced gender-based violence in Harare with Musasa Project, we are quite sure that this newly built centre will also bring numerous benefits to women and girls and more broadly, livelihoods of local people.

Given the current economic situation in the country which is characterised by high levels of unemployment, learning needed skills is critical for self-reliance and resilience in this hard time. Therefore, we are grateful to have an opportunity to provide assistance to people in need of such skills.

An essential point which we underline is that as an implementing partner, we are merely assisting your own efforts to improve the situation for local people. We believe that the sustainability of this

Centre will be assured and it will help people to achieve an ultimate goal, which is to find opportunities for employment or to acquire enough skills to be self-employed.

We hope that this Centre will be fully utilized and will greatly contribute to the improvement of livelihoods of beneficiaries. We wish you all the best in the future endeavours.

**TATENDA.**