

**SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E. MR YOSHI TENDAI HIRAISHI,
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING
OF GRANT CONTRACTS FOR “THE PROJECT FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE
EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AT MALANDA SECONDARY SCHOOL IN
TSHOLOTSHO DISTRICT ”**

MARCH 6, 2015

**SALUTATIONS,
Mangwanani. Mamuka sei?**

**Hon. Zenzo Sibanda, Member of Parliament Tsholotsho South,
Ms. Kragholm, Country Director of PLAN International Zimbabwe, her colleagues,
distinguished guests, all protocol observed, ladies and gentlemen**

It is my great pleasure to sign Grant Contracts with you, Ms. **Kragholm**, whereby the Embassy of Japan is extending to Plan International Zimbabwe, a grant up to nearly USD **200** thousand for “The Project for Improvement of the Educational Environment at **Malanda** Secondary School in **Tsholotsho** District”.

The grant is to be used for constructing and furnishing **3** classroom blocks as well as for the construction of **5** teachers’ houses in order to improve the educational environment at the school.

Malanda Secondary School has been facing a serious problem of a shortage of classroom blocks since its foundation in **2011**. This situation has forced pupils to learn in unacceptable conditions such as using small storage rooms without any desks and chairs. Furthermore, teachers are sharing accommodation at **Malanda** Primary School because there are no such facilities for the secondary school. Inappropriate living conditions for teachers causes high staff turnover rate.

We would like to underline that this project is one of very special cases for us. Under our grant aid scheme, the maximum amount is usually around USD **100** thousand. However, in this particular case, we did not hesitate to double the budget since we recognise the significance of supporting both components, namely classroom blocks and teachers’ houses. Given a very high staff turnover rate, neither of these should be left out for the achievement of quality education for the school. We are pleased to collaborate with you in this very noble project which addressed the human security problem in the area and we thank you for bringing the plight of pupils and teachers to our attention.

It is my sincere hope that this project will improve the educational environment at **Malanda** Secondary School, which will enable students to access quality education.

TATENDA. MAKOROKOTO. KWAMURI MOSE.