

SPEECH PRESENTED BY H.E. MR YOSHI *TENDAI* HIRAISHI, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL HANDOVER AND DEMONSTRATION OF A BOREHOLE DRILLING RIG FOR THE RURAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT IN BINGA DISTRICT

March 24, 2015

MANGWANANI. MAMUKA SEI?

Hon. Minister Kasukuwere, the Minister of Environment, water and Climate

Hon. Zanda, Deputy Minister of Agriculture

Mr. Ndoro, ZINWA Board Chairman

Senior Government Officials

Distinguished guests

Invited press people present

All protocol observed

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here this morning to officiate at this Hand-Over Ceremony of this borehole drilling rig. This drilling rig has recently been totally overhauled under Follow-Up Cooperation of the Rural Water Supply Project in Binga District, implemented by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA. The total cost for the overhaul is over USD 600 thousand.

This rig was originally procured under Grant Aid to Zimbabwe for the Rural Water Supply Project in Binga District which was successfully implemented in two phases some years ago. JICA has initiated this follow-up action with a view to ensuring sustainability of this important project.

There is no need to overemphasise the urgent need for the sinking or making of boreholes in Binga district. The District is characterized by very low rainfall patterns, often with long mid-season droughts. To compound the seriousness of this situation, a large percentage of boreholes in the area dried up as a result of recent droughts. However, as we saw, this rig before us is capable of drilling to greater depths, thus ensuring that the boreholes will not easily dry up in the severest of droughts. We have targeted a minimum of 124 new boreholes in Binga District to be made at strategic locations and gathering

points such as schools and clinics, thereby greatly increasing the water supply rate in the district as a whole.

Thanks to the implementation of this project, the villagers of Binga district, in particular the women and children, will be free from tedious task of walking long distances to get water and they will enjoy more time to do other things for themselves. Furthermore, and perhaps more importantly, they will no longer be exposed to water borne diseases such as cholera, dysentery and diarrhea.

We have been actively supporting similar water supply projects throughout the country in such areas as Chivi, Chipinge and recently in Shurugwi under our small grants scheme. We consider easy access to safe, potable water is a basic human need and right, leading to increased human security and wellbeing.

As part of this project, a Japanese talented engineer was dispatched to the Ministry to ensure its smooth implementation. Although he left this country some time ago, I am pleased to note that he stayed here and spared no efforts to impart his knowledge and skills on the maintenance of this fine machine to his Zimbabwean counterparts.

In concluding my remarks, I hereby officially hand over the rig to the people of the Republic of Zimbabwe. I sincerely hope that the rig will be utilized to the maximum extent in a proper manner and that it will greatly contribute to the improvement of the standard of living of the people in the Binga district. I personally look forward to visiting the Binga district on an appropriate occasion in the future.

THANK YOU. TATENDA. MAKOROKOTO KWAMURI MOSE.