

SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY H. E. MR.YOSHI TENDAI HIRAISHI, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL HAND-OVER OF A REHABILITATION CENTRE AT ST. PATRICK'S MISSION HOSPITAL FOR "THE PROJECT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE REHABILITATION CENTRE IN HWANGE"

May 5, 2015

(Salutation)

SALIBONANI LONKE. Linjani ?

MANGWANANI Mamuka sei ?

Hon. Mr. Jacob Mudenda, Speaker of the National Assembly

Hon. Mr. Cain Mathema, Minister of State for Provincial Affairs; Matebeleland North

Dr. Masuka, Provincial Medical Director; Matabeleland North

Dr. Kurauone, District Medical Officer

Mr. Mugoriya, District Administrator

Representative of Zimbabwe Power Company

Mr. Albert Serrano, Director of St. Patrick's Mission Hospital

Distinguished guests, All protocol observed, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my great pleasure to visit Hwange District and Hwange Town for the first time on this very happy occasion to celebrate the completion of the Rehabilitation Centre here at St. Patrick's Mission Hospital.

The construction and equipment of this facility have been made possible by a grant of over 90 thousand dollars that the Embassy extended to the hospital in November 2013. We are delighted that the work needed was completed on schedule and that it is now fully operational. We know the hospital recently completed the maternity block as well and we would like to praise their continuous efforts to develop healthcare environment at the hospital.

This new Centre will play a vital role in providing rehabilitation service for those who need recovery from physical injuries caused mainly by coal mining activities in Hwange and neighboring areas. We recognise increasing demand for this hospital's services not only as a main health institution which offers medical service at affordable rates, but also as a

referral centre for clinics throughout the district. It is our sincere hope that this facility and its dedicated staff will continue to improve physiotherapy treatment in Hwange District as a whole and enhance the standard of living of local communities.

Finally, I would like to draw everybody's attention to one very important aspect of our assistance. Our assistance, no matter whether it is grant aid or loan or technical support, is designed to encourage and reinforce the efforts of the recipient organisations or communities towards the improvement of the situation facing the local people. The principal role always rests with the recipient beneficiaries and not ourselves. Now that the Rehabilitation Centre is completed and officially handed over to the hospital, it is the noble responsibility of the St. Patrick's Mission Hospital to take good care of the centre for the benefit of the local communities. We have no doubt that the hospital will spare no effort to maintain the Centre properly for years to come and we hope that it will help local people in need to have better access to quality medical service in the district.

I also sincerely 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 your future endeavours.

AMHLOPE

MAKOROKOTO.

SIYABONGA. TATENDA.