

**SPEECH TO BE PRESENTED BY H.E. MR YOSHI TENDAI HIRAISHI,  
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
COMPLETION OF “THE PROJECT FOR MINE CLEARANCE IN MASHONALAND  
CENTRAL PROVINCE”**

**MAY 20 ,2015**

**(Salutation)**

**MANGWANANI Mamuka sei ?**

**Mr. Mbara, Chairman of the National Mine Action Authority of Ministry of  
Defence**

**Mrs. Wadzwanja, District Administrator of Mount Darwin**

**Mr. Chiswiti, The Chief**

**Mr. Colonel Ndlovu, Commander of the National Demining Squadron**

**Mr. Matikiti, Warrant Officer of ZIMAC**

**Mr. Tom Dibb, Programme Manager of HALO Trust**

**Distinguished guests, All protocol observed, Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is my great pleasure to visit Mukumbura today and see the demining activities on the ground as well as the cleared land which marks the successful completion of “The Project for Mine Clearance in Mashonaland Central Province” implemented by our partner, The HALO Trust.

This project aimed to support demining activities which The HALO Trust started in 2013. We did not hesitate to give assistance to their project given that the problem of the minefields had been left unattended for so long since independence in spite of the fact that people had been exposed to grave danger by living beside dense minefields.

We are delighted that nearly 1,000 mines and over 180,000 square meters have been cleared from this project. It is noteworthy that more and more land is being opened up to the local community, which guarantees the freedom of movement for everyone in the community. People now can go across the cleared area while children can walk through to school every day from the border of Mozambique without

fear. Moreover, there will be less livestock deaths. We are extremely pleased to hand the land back over to the community and we hope that the cleared land will be utilised for agricultural purposes.

We believe that The HALO Trust will continue their good work which benefits the entire community around the minefields. For this reason, we extended another grant to them last year so that they could continue operations in demining activities.

We wish you all the best in your future endeavours and I look forward to returning to Mukumbura to witness further progress in mine clearance.

**MAKOROKOTO. AMHLOPE.**