

SPEECH DELIVERED BY H. E. MR.YONEZO FUKUDA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF GRANT CONTRACTS FOR “THE PROJECT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A REHABILITATION CENTRE IN HWANGE”

NOVEMBER 20, 2013

**Director, Rt. Rev. Albert Serrano, Bishop of Hwange,
Members of the press,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It was my great pleasure to have signed with you, Rt. Rev. Albert Serrano, Bishop of Hwange, the contract whereby the Embassy is extending a grant of over 90 thousand dollars for the construction and equipping of a rehabilitation centre at St. Patrick’s Mission Hospital.

This is in response to the growing demand of physiotherapy service in Hwange, a mining town. We hope that the hospital staff will strive for the smooth implementation of the project, and take full responsibility for the maintenance of the new facility. We also expect the Ministry of Health to assist your efforts by allocating technical staff to the physiotherapy department.

In the health sector, in Zimbabwe, we are currently conducting the programmes for strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) capacity, and maternal and child health services through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). We will continue to commit ourselves to improve the access and quality of healthcare as the Japanese government has taken the initiative to promote Universal Health Coverage whereby every person is able to receive proper health service.

We are pleased to start this project, and we look forward to visiting the hospital once the centre is completed in some six months’ time. It is worth noting that this is our first time to extend the grant assistance scheme in Hwange.

THANK YOU. TATENDA.