

SPEECH TO BE PRESENTED BY H.E. MR YONEZO FUKUDA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF GRANT CONTRACTS WITH THE HALO TRUST FOR “THE PROJECT FOR MINE CLEARANCE IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA OF ZIMBABWE” UNDER JAPAN’S GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR GRASSROOTS HUMAN SECURITY PROJECTS

MARCH 24, 2014

MR DIBB, PROGRAMME MANAGER OF THE HALO TRUST,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Embassy once again for the signing of grant contracts whereby the Embassy of Japan is extending to The HALO Trust a grant of over USD 853 thousand for “The Project for Mine Clearance in the Northeastern Area of Zimbabwe”.

This is the second time that we are working with The HALO Trust. By all accounts, implementation of last year’s grant is progressing smoothly despite a delayed start. Not only is it rare for the Embassy to extend grants to one organisation in two consecutive years, but as I mentioned last year, the amount being provided for mine clearance activities is unusually high, due to the nature of the operation and its influence on human security.

We understand that the Government of Zimbabwe has taken the mine issue seriously and worked closely with partner organisations. We are honoured to support such sincere efforts. Our Government holds The HALO Trust in very high esteem given your long and successful history of alleviating human suffering in former theatres of conflict worldwide, including the neighbouring country Mozambique.

This project has a very positive impact on local communities who will be able to enjoy freedom of movement. More arable land will be returned to agricultural production. Moreover, unnecessary loss of human and livestock life will be averted through the removal of these indiscriminate killers.

We wish you every success in the implementation of this important project and in all your future endeavours.

THANK YOU