

**SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E. MR YONEZO FUKUDA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE HANDOVER CEREMONY OF THE PROJECT, “ACCESS TO WATER IN CHIVI DISTRICT” IMPLEMENTED BY CAFOD**

**APRIL 25, 2014**

It is my great pleasure to attend this ceremony which marks the successful completion of the project, “Access to Water in Chivi District”, implemented by our NGO partner, CAFOD.

It is just over a year since the Embassy extended a grant of USD 117,190 to CAFOD and we are pleased that you have managed to complete the project on schedule and the local community is experiencing the benefits.

As I mentioned at the signing ceremony, recent weather patterns both locally and globally are ever changing. Southern Africa has not been spared and has been experiencing increased dry spells and erratic rainfall. Communities affected by drought are adopting dangerous coping mechanisms such as sourcing water from unprotected and often distant sources such as rivers and dams thereby exposing themselves to water borne diseases.

The Embassy has been actively supporting the provision of safe water supply through the sinking of boreholes throughout the country and more particularly in the drier areas. Only last month, we extended a grant to Shurugwi Partners for the establishment of thirteen water points situated at clinics and schools.

A very strong point which we underline is that water points should be adequately managed by local communities including the repair and maintenance of facilities in the event of breakdowns. I would like to reiterate it here today that these boreholes now belong to you, the community, and their upkeep is entirely your responsibility. As donors, we are merely assisting your own efforts to improve your standards of living. This is extremely important.

This assistance was extended to you in the knowledge that it will have a very positive impact on you, the beneficiary households and that sustainability of facilities is assured. We are very glad to visit Chivi today on this happy occasion to officially hand over these boreholes to you. MAKOROKOTO.

**THANK YOU**