

SPEECH TO BE PRESENTED BY H.E. MR YOSHI HIRAISHI, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF GRANT CONTRACTS FOR “THE PROJECT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MATERNITY WAITING HOMES IN MOUNT DARWIN DISTRICT”

FEBRUAREY 18, 2015

SALUTATIONS,

Mangwanani. Mamuka Sei?

The Director of Outcome Community Network Mr. Mutoro, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my great pleasure to visit Mount Darwin District and more particularly, to visit Mount Darwin District Hospital on this important occasion today, whereby we sign the Grant Contracts to extend a total grant of nearly \$100,000 for “The Project for Construction of Maternity Waiting Homes in Mount Darwin District”.

It is critical for all pregnant women to give birth at health institutions in order to have safe deliveries and to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. However, in reality, many of them fail to do so, resulting in high rate of home deliveries because of difficulties in accessing health facilities on time due to long distance from home. Japanese Government has actively supported the construction of Maternity Waiting Homes in Zimbabwe in collaboration with UNFPA. Therefore, we are well aware of the dire need for such facilities to ease the plight of pregnant women.

Maternity Waiting Homes will be built and furnished here at Mount Darwin District Hospital as well as 4 rural clinics in the District, namely, Bandimba, Mutungagore, Mukumbura and Dotito. These 5 sites are the most in need of such facilities in this District in that they have higher number of deliveries at institution as well as higher number of reported home deliveries. The facilities, once completed, will provide safe and comfortable environment for pregnant women where they can access appropriate health service on time.

We are aware that Zimbabwe has been suffering from an unacceptably high Maternal Mortality Rate. Hence, it is our hope that this project will contribute in some way to the improvement of maternal health.

Our support to Zimbabwe’s health sector has been and will continue to be steadfast and consistent. We look forward to visiting Mount Darwin District again once all of maternity waiting homes are completed.

TATENDA. MAKOROKOTO.