

**SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E. MR YOSHI TENDAI HIRAISHI,  
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
HANDOVER CEREMONY OF THE “WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE  
(WASH) PROJECT IN GOKWE NORTH, MIDLANDS”, IMPLEMENTED BY  
ADRA JAPAN**

**17 NOVEMBER 2015**

**SALUTATIONS,**

Invited Guests

All protocol observed, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my great pleasure to be here at Gokwe North for the first time on this special occasion to celebrate the successful completion of the Project named “Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Project in Gokwe North, Midlands”. This project was mainly implemented by a Japanese NGO, ADRA Japan in close cooperation with ADRA Zimbabwe.

This project was made possible by a grant of 175 million Japanese yen, which is about 1.5 million USD from the Japanese Government. The direct beneficiaries of this project exceeds 9,300 people in the community. The project focused on improving water and hygiene conditions amongst communities at large and improving infrastructure at disadvantaged schools. Work commenced in February 2013 and was originally scheduled to be completed in March next year, but thanks to the efforts of all concerned all the work has already been successfully undertaken and benefits are already being felt.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As we all witness this morning, the project has seen the construction of 10 classroom blocks, the installation of 7 water harvesting tanks and 45 hand-washing facilities in satellite schools and construction of 10 latrine blocks. In addition, 31 shallow wells were constructed or rehabilitated in the community. Furthermore, pupils and villagers were trained in health and hygiene issues, including training in the proper maintenance of water facilities.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay special tribute to ADRA both Japan and Zimbabwe which has been very active here in Gokwe North in the field of WASH. They carried out similar projects here in the past, which are still fully functional. Gokwe North was specifically targeted as it suffered very high mortality rates in the 2008/2009 cholera outbreak, which we hope will never recur in the future. I would

also like to express my deep appreciation to local authorities which spared no effort to make this project a great success.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight one important aspect of our assistance of this kind, which I hope you bear in mind in the future. If I sum it up in one word, it would be ‘sustainability’. As of today, the new facilities are officially handed over to the community as a whole, it is the noble responsibility of the community to ensure that these facilities are maintained in good working conditions for years to come.

Finally it is my sincere hope that all the facilities will be fully utilized and will greatly contribute to the improvement of the learning environment for pupils and living conditions in the community. I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

**MAKOROKOTO KWAMURI MOSE.**

**TINOTENDA.**