

## **Groundbreaking Ceremony of Japanese Grant Aid Project to Improve Makuti-Chirundu Section of North-South Corridor**

On 26 August, the Groundbreaking Ceremony of a Japanese Grant Aid Project to improve the Makuti-Chirundu Section of the North-South Corridor was held. Attending the occasion was the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, H.E. Mr Emmerson Munangagwa, the Ambassador of Japan, H.E. Mr Toshiyuki Iwado, as well as Ministers and senior Government officials including the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development, the Hon. J.B. Matiza, the Minister of State for Mashonaland West Province, the Hon. Mary Mliswa, and the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, the Hon. Ziyambi Ziyambi. Japan has provided approximately USD 21 million in funding for this project.

The North-South Corridor is used by many trucks and passenger vehicles travelling to Zambia and other countries of the region. This steep and winding section of road descending into the Zambezi Valley has been characterized by slow-moving traffic and a high accident rate. Through this project, climbing lanes will be constructed and the horizontal or vertical alignment improved for a 6.5km section. This improved section will allow a smoother flow of traffic and it is expected that the number of accidents will significantly decrease. Over 250 local road workers and other staff will be employed on the project, and the Japanese engineers will share with their Zimbabwean counterparts the latest technology in road construction on steep slopes. The improved section is expected to be completed by December 2020, and become a model for other steep sections of road in the region.

Speaking at the occasion, H.E. President Munangagwa said that the improved road would benefit both Zimbabwe and the region. He thanked Japan for its continued support, and said that the project is a testimony of the cordial relations between the two countries.

Ambassador Iwado emphasized that the project would make Zimbabwe more “landlinked”, thus increasing the country’s economic potential. He said that Japan would continue to assist the Zimbabwe Government’s efforts in making the country more “landlinked”.

Also along the North-South Corridor, Japan has previously funded construction of the new Chirundu Bridge in 2002, and supported the establishment of the Chirundu One Stop Border Post in 2009.



Ceremony Site (1)



Ceremony Site (2)



President Munangagwa (centre), with (l-r) Hon. Ministers Ziyambi, Matiza and Mliswa



Ambassador Iwado says that the project will help Zimbabwe to become more "landlinked"



The Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development, Hon. Matiza



President Munagagwa thanked Japan for its continued support





Groundbreaking Ceremony (1)



Groundbreaking Ceremony (2)



Sign showing the support from the People of Japan