



JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

Signing Ceremony for the Exchange of Notes for the Economic and Social Development Programme for Agricultural Equipment Assistance

The Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe held a signing ceremony for the Exchange of Notes for the Economic and Social Development Programme for Agricultural Equipment Assistance on 29 April 2026, in Harare.

The Exchange of Notes was signed on behalf of the Government of Japan by **His Excellency Mr. Nobutaka Maekawa, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zimbabwe**, and on behalf of the Republic of Zimbabwe by the **Honourable Professor Mthuli Ncube, Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion**.

Under this programme, the Government of Japan will provide agricultural equipment valued at **approximately USD 2.6 million** to support Zimbabwe's agriculture sector. This assistance aims to enhance productivity, improve food security, and contribute to sustainable economic growth.

Speaking at the ceremony, H.E. Mr. Nobutaka Maekawa stated:

“Japan is pleased to support Zimbabwe's agricultural development through this programme. We hope that the provision of agricultural equipment will enhance productivity and contribute to food security and economic resilience. Japan remains committed to strengthening the longstanding friendship and cooperation between our two countries.”

In his remarks, Honourable Professor Mthuli Ncube said:

“The Government of Zimbabwe sincerely appreciates the timely intervention by the Government of Japan, as it will go a long way in advancing rice production technologies, thereby cushioning citizens from the negative impacts of climate shocks and geo-political developments. The support also reflects the strong and deepening partnership between Zimbabwe and Japan.”

Both Governments reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations and advancing cooperation in areas of mutual interest.