

P R E S S R E L E A S E

November 20, 2013

JAPAN FUNDS CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF PHYSIOTHERAPY CENTRE IN HWANGE

At a ceremony held in Harare, today, the Embassy of Japan extended a grant of ninety thousand, seven hundred and ninety-three dollars (USD 90,793) for “The Project for the Construction of a Rehabilitation Centre in Hwange”.

The Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe, H.E. Mr. Yonezo Fukuda and the director of St. Patrick’s Mission Hospital, Rt. Rev. Albert Serrano, Bishop of Hwange, signed the contract.

Construction is expected to take six months. The new facility will be comprised of a reflexology department, individual therapy cubicles as well as a gym area. Equipment to be provided includes ultrasound machines, adult pulpit walkers and parallel bars.

The existing room and equipment used for physiotherapy treatment has proved to be inadequate due to growing demand for the service. Since St. Patrick’s is one of the referral hospitals, the deteriorating condition also affects the health service delivery in the district. The project will enable more than 60 people requiring several treatment sessions in a month, to receive proper treatment.

The grant was extended under a scheme known as Japan’s Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects. It has been used to support a variety of self-help development projects throughout the country in the fields of agriculture and irrigation, social protection, water and sanitation, and school improvement, to mention a few.

St. Patrick’s Mission Hospital was established in 1999 as a clinic. It currently has 80 staff and 72 beds, and provides comprehensive care including emergency medical services. The number of outpatients was approximately 36,000 in 2011.