

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

September 30, 2014

JAPAN HANDS OVER AMBLANCES TO ST JOHN'S AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

The Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe H.E. Mr Yoshi Hiraishi, today officially handed over four ambulances to the St John's Ambulance Association.

In March this year, the Embassy of Japan extended a grant of sixty-five thousand, seven hundred and forty-three (USD 65,743) to the St John Ambulance Association of Zimbabwe for the implementation of "The Project for the Supply of Recycled Ambulances to Harare, Bulawayo and Mutare".

The grant was used to import the four recycled ambulances from Japan, each equipped with radios. Two are to be deployed in Harare and one each for Bulawayo and Mutare. This will hopefully alleviate the dire shortage of ambulances in these cities. Zimbabwe has been experiencing increasing cases of fatalities since many people cannot access hospitals on time for emergency treatment either because of lack of ready cash or shortages of ambulances.

Speaking at the occasion, H.E. Ambassador Hiraishi noted that the Embassy has been assured that the ambulances will be well cared for so as to ensure a constant and reliable service to the public. St John's Ambulance Association charges an affordable fee for daily service of the vehicles.