

SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E. MR YOSHI HIRAISHI, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL HANDOVER OF AMBULANCES TO ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION FOR “THE PROJECT FOR THE SUPPLY OF RECYCLED AMBULANCES TO HARARE, BULAWAYO AND MUTARE”

SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

SALUTATIONS,

Mangwanani. Mamuka sei?

It is my great pleasure to officiate at this very happy occasion today whereby the Embassy of Japan is handing over these ambulances to St John’s Ambulance Association. We are grateful that these ambulances were delivered all the way from Japan in an expeditious manner without any difficulties.

We sincerely hope this will help them provide emergency ambulance services in a timely manner and thereby reduce unnecessary loss of life due to unforeseen injuries such as road accidents and more compelling reasons such as emergency child delivery. It is our hope that procurement of these ambulances will be of the great assistance to their own efforts to improve people’s access to appropriate medical services.

We place great emphasis on two elements, those are, sustainability and universality on any assistance we render. On the sustainability aspect, we have been assured that these ambulances will be well cared for so as to ensure a constant and reliable service to the public. The fact that they charge an affordable service fee to keep ambulances well maintained and to enable them to be used for a longer period is indeed a major contributory factor to such sustainability. On the aspect of universality, we very much focus on overall benefit to local people. St John’s is a non-profit organisation dedicated to people who might not ordinarily be able to reach necessary medical care. Their service will certainly help to realise people’s universal access to such a vital service as medical care. (These are the most important elements.)

In this specific case, there was absolutely no doubt that we share a common commitment to the improvement of the standards of living of local people, particularly the most vulnerable people. We have every faith in their capacity and dedication to provide an essential service to intended beneficiaries and that these ambulances will be put to maximum use for years to come.

TATENDA. MAKOROKOTO.