

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

January 23, 2015

JAPAN EXTENDS GRANT TO ZIMBABWE COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND FOR EYE CARE PROJECT

The Embassy of Japan has decided today to extend a grant of ninety-nine thousand nine hundred and seventy-eight dollars (USD 99,978) to “Zimbabwe Council for the Blind” for the implementation of “the Project for the Improvement of Eye Care Facility in Mashonaland West”.

The Grant Contracts to this effect were signed by the Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe H.E. Mr. Yoshi Hiraishi and the Director of Zimbabwe Council for the Blind, Mr. Aplos Nyathi at the Embassy of Japan in Harare today.

The objective of the project is to improve eye care facility at Norton Eye Care Unit so that it will be able to offer better quality services to patients in Mashonaland West Province. According to estimations, about 45,000 people in the province are visually impaired mainly due to cataract. Provision of essential medical equipment will allow the Unit to offer quality treatment to those in need of care.

A significant component of the project is that of its outreach activities in the province. Regular cataract treatment will be given through provision of a vehicle and medical equipment. The project complies with the Ministry of Health and Child Care’s “National Eye Health Strategy” which aims to eliminate avoidable blindness through provision of appropriate eye care services.

Speaking at the occasion, H.E. Mr. Hiraishi expressed the hope that the project would develop eye health care and help greater number of people to access to quality service throughout the province.