

SPEECH TO BE PRESENTED BY H.E. MR YOSHI HIRAISHI, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF GRANT CONTRACTS FOR “THE PROJECT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF EYE CARE FACILITY IN MASHONALAND WEST”

JANUARY 23, 2015

SALUTATIONS,

Mangwanani. Mamuka sei?

Welcome to the Embassy on a very special occasion today, whereby we sign the Grant Contracts to extend a grant of nearly \$100,000 to the Zimbabwe Council for the Blind for “The Project for the Improvement of Eye Care Facility in Mashonaland West”.

The fundamental objective of this project is to improve eye care facility at Norton Eye Care Unit so that it will be able to offer better quality service to patients in Mashonaland West Province. According to estimations, about 45,000 people in the province are visually impaired mainly due to cataract. Essential equipment is to be provided to the Unit, which is the only medical institution offering cataract surgeries in the province, to realise higher-quality of vital treatment for such eye diseases.

Another significant component of the project is that of the outreach activities. The grant will enable the Unit to carry out regular outreach activities through provision of a vehicle and medical equipment, which will help greater number of patients to access to treatment throughout the province.

The project will therefore contribute directly to the goals of the Ministry of Health and Child Care as stated in the “National Eye Health Strategy” in eliminating avoidable blindness through provision of appropriate eye care services.

We wish you all the best in your future endeavours and we sincerely hope that the grant will be effectually utilised to develop eye health care in the area.

TATENDA. MAKOROKOTO.