

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 REHABILITATION OF GYMNASIUM AT HILLSIDE TEACHERS’ COLLEGE IN BULAWAYO” AND FOR “THE PROJECT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CLASSROOM BLOCKS AT TSHAYILE PRIMARY SCHOOL IN BUBI DISTRICT”

JANUARY 30, 2015

SALUTATIONS,

SALIBONANI. It is my great pleasure to visit Bulawayo, the “City of Kings”, and more importantly to visit Hillside Teachers’ College on this important occasion today, whereby we sign the Grant Contracts to extend a total grant of nearly \$180,000 for “The Project for the Rehabilitation of Gymnasium at Hillside Teachers’ College in Bulawayo” and for “The Project for Construction of Classroom Blocks at Tshayile Primary School in Bubi District”.

For the project in Hillside Teachers’ College, the grant will be used for the total refurbishment of the gymnasium as well as for the purchase of exercise equipment, which are invaluable for the physical education. Students will be able to learn more knowledge and skills of sports in an appropriate setting, which will enable the college to foster more advanced teachers. Besides, students majoring in other subjects, lecturers and community members as well will have access to the facilities so that they will enjoy more sporting activities.

We are now placing great emphasis on the assistance in the field of sports known as “Sports for Tomorrow” toward the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic games. In this context, we have dispatched many JOCVs to enhance the sports in Zimbabwe, and, as you may be aware, one of them, Ms. Mori has been assigned to this college to play an active role in the physical education department. We believe that Ms. Mori will contribute to enhance effectiveness of the project.

For the project in Tshayile Primary School, the grant is to be used for newly constructing four classroom blocks and their furnishing in order to improve the learning environment at the school for both pupils and teachers.

Pupils of the school are currently attending lessons in a most coarse building, which causes to their poor learning environment and eventually to the high rate of their drop-outs and transfers from the school. Because of this situation, it is very critical to support those children in order to realise their fundamental right to access quality education.

We wish that this modest grant will contribute in some way to the fulfillment of MDG 2, which is the achievement of universal primary education. We sincerely hope that this project will improve the learning environment for the pupils at the school and increase its capacity for the enrolment of more students.

Finally, we wish two of you every success in your future endeavours and look forward to visiting here, Hillside Teachers' College again and Tsayile Primary School when the projects are completed.

SIYABONGA AMHLOPE.