

**SPEECH TO BE PRESENTED BY H. E. MR YOSHI TENDAI HIRAISHI,  
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE HAND-  
OVER CEREMONY OF “THE PROJECT FOR IMPROVEMENT OF WATER,  
SANITATION AND HYGIENE AT SEKE 11 PRIMARY SCHOOL IN CHITUNGWIZA”**

**October 23, 2015**

**(Salutation)**

**MANGWANANI Mamuka sei ?**

**Dr Masango, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education**

**Honorable Mr Chigumba, Member of Parliament**

**Councilor Mr Mutodi, Mayor of Chitungwiza City**

**Mr Chimhanda, District Education Officer of Seke District**

**Mrs Dokora, The Councilor**

**Senior Officials from the local government, here present**

**Mr Mutasa, Chairperson of School Development Association of Zimbabwe**

**Senior Officials of Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, here present**

**Mrs Matsekedza, Head Mistress of Seke 11 Primary School**

**Distinguished guests, All protocol observed, Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is my great pleasure to visit Seke 11 Primary School this morning to attend this happy occasion. All of us gather here to celebrate the successful completion of “The Project for Improvement of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene at Seke 11 Primary School in Chitungwiza”.

The construction and installation of these facilities has been made possible by a grant of nearly 69 thousand dollars that the Embassy extended to the school in November 2013. We are pleased that it has finally been completed with the assistance of parents despite of some challenges on its way.

In Zimbabwe, communicable water-borne diseases caused by poor hygiene and sanitation pose a serious threat to local communities. According to the recently released disease surveillance report of the Ministry of Health and Child Care, 16 people died of diarrhea countrywide this August, and this brings the total number of people who have died of diarrhea so far this year to 365 out of more than 300 thousand cases reported. Given the fact that more than 40% of pupils with diarrhea get affected at school rather than at home, it is critical to improve the hygienic and sanitary environment at educational institutions.

Embassy of Japan places much emphasis on the promotion of water, sanitation and hygiene given that it is directly connected to the improvement of standards of living. In the case of schools, it is one of the most important components for quality education. No child's education should be interrupted by the added burden of fetching water or bringing water from home due to poor sanitary conditions that you were facing here.

We were fully aware of the critical need to support Seke 11 Primary School due to the fact that the school is located in Chitungwiza which continues to experience severe water shortages and that a large number of pupils were studying in conditions without access to safe water and proper toilet facilities at the school. What is significant is that pupils can now learn under better sanitary conditions with plenty of clean water and are free from fear of the outbreak of above-mentioned water-borne diseases.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight one important aspect of our assistance of this kind, which I hope you bear in mind in the future. If I sum it up in one word, it would be 'sustainability'. As of today, the borehole and the newly constructed toilet block are officially handed over to the school and the community. It is the responsibility of the school, with support from the community members, to ensure that these facilities are maintained in good working conditions for years to come.

Finally it is my sincere hope that the borehole as well as the ablution facility will be fully utilized and will greatly contribute to the improvement of the learning environment for pupils and future generations. I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

**MAKOROKOTO KWAMURI MOSE. TINOTENDA.**