

**SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E. MR YONEZO FUKUDA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF GRANT CONTRACTS WITH SHURUWI PARTNERS FOR “THE PROJECT FOR SUPPLYING SAFE WATER IN SHURUGWI DISTRICT”**

**MARCH 12, 2014**

**SALUTATIONS,**

It is my great pleasure to be here to extend USD 121,880 from the Embassy to you, Shurugwi Partners for this important project. Through the set up of water points at 8 health facilities and 5 schools, we hope that the local people including patients and students can enjoy healthier lives.

These boreholes, however, have to be maintained by the community, based on training on water management and borehole repair. Having visited several water points installed by other organisations, we realised that some boreholes have been working well for a quite number of years, whilst others have broken down and abandoned by the community.

The difference seems to emanate from the level of community participation under the initiative of Water Management Committees, through regular meetings. We strongly urge you to have community members share the sense of ownership and responsibility of the newly drilled boreholes and fencing.

We generally do not put any additional inputs as the facilities of this project should be maintained by local people, in collaboration with you and the relevant local authorities, such as District Development Fund (DDF). It is your responsibility to properly maintain these facilities.

We wish you all the best, and look forward to visiting the project sites on completion, and follow-ups in two and five years' time. We highly emphasise sustainability.

Incidentally, this is the 100<sup>th</sup> project to be supported under our scheme known as Japan's Grant Assistance for Human Security Grassroots Projects in Zimbabwe. This scheme has been used to implement a wide variety of projects with a direct impact at community level. The provision of safe potable water has been and will continue to be a major focus of our assistance.

**MAKOROKOTO. THANK YOU.**