

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

March 12, 2014

JAPAN ASSISTS ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

The Embassy of Japan has extended a grant of sixty-five thousand, seven hundred and forty-three (USD65,743) to the St. John Ambulance Association Zimbabwe for the procurement and importation of four ambulances.

The Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe H.E. Mr Yonezo Fukuda and the Chief Executive Officer of St. John Ambulance Association Zimbabwe, Mr Bruce Grant signed agreements formalising the grant at the Embassy of Japan today.

The Association is to import four reconditioned vehicles, each equipped with radios. Two will be deployed in Harare and one each for Bulawayo and Mutare, where the demand for the service is high. It is expected that emergency cases, including road traffic accidents and delivery complications, are handled more efficiently.

Zimbabwe has been experiencing increasing cases of fatalities due to people not accessing hospitals on time for emergency treatment, either because of lack of ready cash or shortages of ambulances. For this reason, the Association charges a reasonable fee for the service, which enables it to maintain the vehicles on a regular basis.

Founded in 1920, St. John Ambulance Association Zimbabwe has provided ambulance services. It currently operates in Harare, Bulawayo and Mutare to respond to emergency cases 24/7. It also provides First Aid and Home Based Care training courses for the general public and industry workers.

At another occasion to help improve healthcare environment, the Embassy has collaborated with the NGO HELP, to assist the installation of radio and solar panels at health facilities, and the repair of ambulances in Beitbridge.

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